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Meet Bandit

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Annual show
returns

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Panthers
lose to Lions

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SERVING PALMER, MONSON, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND & WALES

The Journal Register

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

April 29, 2021 | Vol. CLXX, No. 14 | \$1.00

www.journalregister.turley.com

VETERANS AFFAIRS

Monson gives notice it's leaving service district

By Michael Harrison
mharrison@turley.com

MONSON — A complaint from a resident about a lack of assistance from the Veterans Services District of Eastern Hampden County led to the Monson Select Board to voting during a recent meeting to leave the district, which includes Hampden, Holland and Wales.

The vote was 2-1 after a motion by Selectwoman Mary Hull that was seconded by Ed. Harrison. Board Chair Richard Smith was the lone dissenting vote. Now the town will decide whether to hire someone either part-time or full-time to handle veterans services for Monson residents or possibly join another district.

The move is effective June 30.

A discussion about the district ensued after Gretchen Neggers, a former town administrator, recounted her experience trying to get assistance filing for benefits after her husband, a veteran, passed away five months ago.

"I asked for help filing a claim. I received a message back offering condolence and thanking my husband for being a hero — and the 800 number for the VA," Neggers, who documented her encounter and shared it with town offices, said.

"I don't think it's satisfactory for me or anyone in this district when they need help with something that's very confusing," she said.

"If you need help with anything else, you get an 800 number to the VA. They meet once a year. There's no structure. There's no oversight. I think veterans are entitled to this service. I don't think the eagerness (to serve veterans) is there. Bring it in-house. Hire someone from the town to do it part time. Then you can say yes, our veterans need this, their spouses need this."

Neggers said she stumbled onto a benefit she didn't know she was entitled to and was vexed that she wasn't informed about it from a district navigator.

"It shouldn't be a scavenger hunt to find out what benefits you're entitled to," she said.

Veterans District Chair Rick Green sympathized with Neggers, but pushed back against some of the allegations about mismanagement she detailed in a letter to the select board.

"Some of the items are not accurate," Green said, though he did agree there was room for improvement.

Green, who said the district was established in 1946 — making it the "oldest district in the Commonwealth" — is confident deficiencies could be addressed, but also suggested a dual track approach of working toward improvements while exploring alternatives. With "a tight window" in which to operate because of the 60-day notice required in the district's charter and the clock ticking on the town's budget year, he asked the board to take its time making a decision.

"If you're in the tight window at the same time you're exiting the district, you're basically burning the building down to see if the sprinkler system works," he said.

"Do we have the right people to do it? Do we have the budget in place to do it?"

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GOVERNMENT



Hryniewicz Park currently has outdated play equipment, missing railings on the gazebo, broken benches and more will be addressed through the recently awarded Community Development Block Grant.

Block grants fueling town improvement plans

By Jonah Snowden
jsnowden@turley.com

PALMER — Plans for upgrades at Hryniewicz Park, domestic violence prevention service, transportation and housing needs are all moving forward.

Officials preach patience as the plans come to fruition, but thanks to an infusion of federal money in the form of a block grant, they are all moving forward.

It's how the town of Palmer is using its more than \$825,000 share of approximately \$1.4 million in federal grants from the Community Development Block Grant Program spread around Palmer, Holland and Wales.

Palmer Community Development Clerk Dakota DesRochers said issues in need of addressing at Hryniewicz Park include outdated play equipment, missing railings on the gazebo, broken benches and more.

"There's going to be a process for this and we're not going to start construction right away this year," DesRochers said.

"We've already released a (request for proposal) to hire a consultant. Their contact will conduct public meeting to obtain input from the public and town officials as to what features should be included to create plans, specifications and an estimate of the total project."

More service

Funding will also be allocated for a Planner Approach to Community Health.

"It's a community-centered service model, flexible and responsive to current community priorities," DesRochers said.

"The program will provide delivery of flexible, community-based, domestic violence advocacy services responsive to the local community."

The Domestic Violence Task Force will receive support through the grant. So will the Quaboag Connector and a CHD project, program.

BLOCK GRANT | page 2

FIRE



Courtesy photo
Members of the Holland Fire Dept. who provided mutual aid for a fully-involved house fire on Hovey Road in Monson Tuesday night.

Family displaced by house fire needs gift cards

By Michael Harrison
mharrison@turley.com

MONSON — Firefighters from several local departments fought a massive house fire on Hovey Road in Monson Tuesday night.

Everyone in the home was able to get out safely, but the house was left uninhabitable, according to reports. The initial findings are that an outdoor grill was the source of the fire.

The Palmer, Bondsville, Holland and Ludlow fire departments were among those that responded.

"Shortly after 9 p.m. on Tuesday, while on scene of a MVA our

Tanker was requested to assist with a three-alarm fire in Monson," the Holland Fire Dept. posted on its Facebook page.

"Car 1 and the Tanker responded along with many other mutual aid departments while our Engine 2 and Squad handled the accident in town."

According to a post in the Monson Speaks Facebook group, someone who is in touch with the family that escaped the fire said they lost all their possessions and all but the clothes they were wearing when they fled the fire. The community is rallying to assist them.

"The family will be staying in

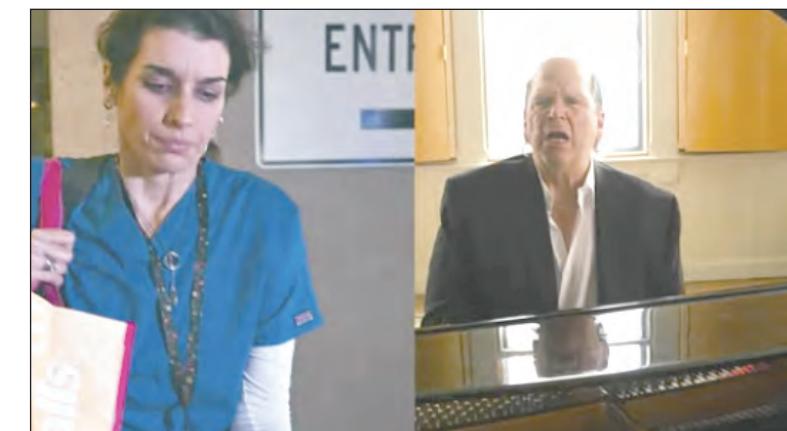
a hotel this week," the post states.

"They could use gift cards for local restaurants, also CVS and Walgreens for some basic items. The parents would also like to pick up some clothes at Walmart or TJ Maxx was mentioned as places they would quickly be able to grab what they need for now. These donations may be mailed or placed in the town hall drop box located at 110 Main St, Monson MA. Please place these donations in an envelope labeled House fire donation. Attn. Town clerk office."

Go to the Journal Register's Facebook page for updates as they become available.

HEALTH CARE

Ode to the frontline workers



Courtesy photo
Erin Greene Wallace (left) and Peter J. Newland in a still from the video for his new song, an ode to frontline workers called "Lean On Me/Stand By You."

Local artist's new song, video debuts on National Nurses Day

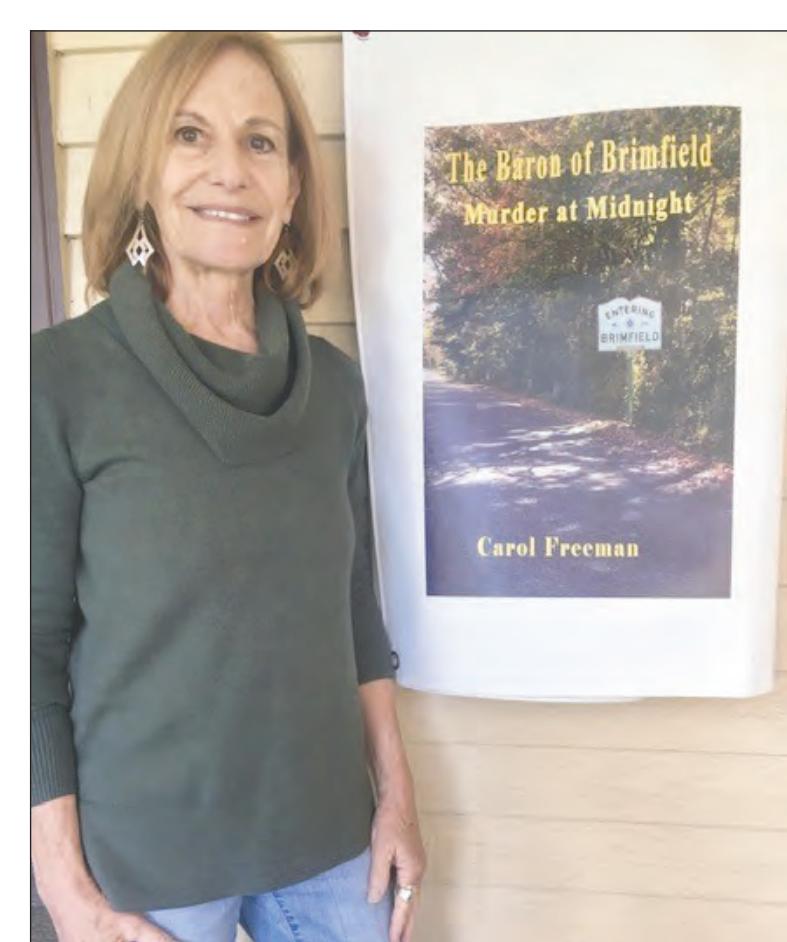
By Michael Harrison
mharrison@turley.com

SPRINGFIELD — There's nothing like a pandemic to get the creative juices flowing.

In times of crisis that have folks feeling less than whole, artists always find a way to help fill the void. And if ever there was a time when they don't have to dig deep to find empathy and inspiration, the past year — and counting — has delivered it by the shipping container.

ODE | page 5

ANTIQUES WEEK



Courtesy photo
Carol and Bill Freeman's latest 'cozy murder mystery' is set in Brimfield, with the annual show as a backdrop.

A 'cozy' murder mystery spiced up the annual show

BRIMFIELD — In less than two weeks, the first installment of Brimfield Antique Flea Markets 2021 kicks off May 11. Opening week is a trial run of sorts. Brimfield Auction Acres, owned by Kate and Rusty Corriveau, will be the lone field — with more than 300 dealers — and the rest of the shows planning to join them for the summer and fall weeks. This will be the first show under pandemic guidelines and Auction Acres will be a model for their peers.

In the meantime, we're highlighting some of the more notable dealers you'll see at Auction Acres this spring.

Dealer: Carol and Bill Free-

man, DBA: Mes Amis Antiques, from Montgomery, N.Y.

What you'll find: We sell a variety of early 1900s garden furniture, typewriters, informal country pieces. Utilitarian items.

What's special: "I am also a writer of cozy murder mysteries," Carol Freeman says.

"This year I get to feature my recent book, 'The Baron of Brimfield: Murder at Midnight.' It takes the reader on a madcap adventure throughout the May Brimfield show that we all love and have missed so terribly. A



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MYSTERY | page 3

Farm To Table



Turley Publications photo by Michael Harrison

BRIMFIELD — The annual Hitchcock Free Academy Farmer's Market is back. Although fresh, local produce is a week or two away, vendors at the socially-distanced market that kicked off recently have been offering both houseplants and vegetable plants, including artisan lettuce and herbs, local honey, baked goods, and more. Here, Lee Fernandez shows off fresh eggs from Sue Gustafson's Rocky Ridge Farm.

Brimfield church hosting recycling drop-off May 8

By Jonah Snowden
jsnowden@turley.com

BRIMFIELD — Residents can get rid of their unwanted recyclable electronics at First Congregational Church May 8.

Desktop computers, DVD players, printers, laptops, cell phones and more can be brought to the church, where Green Day Recycling will collect them.

"Anything requiring batteries or can be plugged into a wall," in addition to bulkier metal items will be accepted,

Green Day Recycling Operations Manager Brian Wood said.

"We can take anything, from a microwave to a TV," Wood said. "We've taken some really obscure stuff — everything as big as like a refrigerator to a box of batteries."

They also accept bicycles in any condition.

"We're not going to turn away anybody, even if it's been sitting around or rusty," Wood said. "Our goal with the bicycles is to find a new home for them and to keep them in use."

Cell phones, bikes, wires and batteries will be accepted for free. Other items require a fee of \$5 to \$40 with a portion of the proceeds going back to the church.

Wood said Green Day Recycling



Courtesy photo
Cell phones, batteries, and other electronics, as well as unwanted bicycles and more can be dropped off for recycling at First Congregational Church in Brimfield May 8.

has been doing these events throughout the state for over a decade and are "lucky to live in a state where people care about the environment and issues like climate change."

"When it comes to electronics, a lot of people may have been accumulating

these electronics over the years and may not necessarily know how to get rid of them," Wood said. "We're also finding that newer electronics do not last as long as they used to. They have become a lot cheaper to manufacture and a lot of them are made overseas. You can get a brand

new TV for \$400."

Wood also said they are always happy to collaborate with churches and other nonprofit organizations.

"Churches are really suffering right now, because they're in need of repairs and still have organizations dependent on them to provide money, so we're helping the organization we work with and we're helping a community by providing an opportunity to get rid of items they may not otherwise know how to get rid of," Wood said.

"It's kind of like an everybody wins situation: the public gets to feel good about recycling and reducing waste, getting rid of an item they may not know how to get rid of or has been sitting around collecting dust for a long time. We're also helping out an organization as well, who might not be bringing in the same amount that they were, prior to COVID."

The electronics recycling event will take place 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 8, at the church on 20 Main Street in Brimfield. To contact Wood and set up an electronics recycling event, send an email to GreendayRecyclingMA@gmail.com and visit Green Day's Facebook page.



BANDIT

Bandit of Palmer, curling up with Jonathan Jarvis. Bandit is a Tortoiseshell kitten approaching his first birthday.

Which animals make your life special? We feature your pets every week here and on Facebook. All animals welcome! Is there a pet you're fostering and trying to re-home? Email a high-resolution jpg of your pet with a little information to mharrison@turley.com.

Palmer town taxes due in May

The Town of Palmer Tax Collector would like to remind all taxpayers of the following:

Fiscal Year 2021 fourth-quarter real estate and personal property tax bills are due and payable by Monday, May 3.

The Tax Collector's office is accepting credit and debit card payments for property taxes either on the town website at townofpalmer.com or at the tax office. No telephone payments can be accepted. Credit cards accepted are Master Card, VISA, Discover and American Express.

There is a sliding scale fee for each bill paid which is passed on to the taxpayer. The fee structure can also be viewed on the town website.

Call the collector's office at 413-283-2601 with any questions pertaining to tax payments. Office hours: Monday 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m. and Thursdays 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (close on Fridays).

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Did you get your water report?

The Monson Water and Sewer Department enclosed the 2020 consumer confidence report in the mailing of the April 23 bills. Anyone who did not receive a copy can access it on the town's

website at monson-ma.gov, or pick one up at the Water & Sewer Department, 198 Main St., the Town Office Building, 110 Main St., or the Monson Free Library, 2 High Street.

BLOCK GRANT

from page 1
viding job-related transportation services for families in Palmer.

Homeowners who need help with repairs also will benefit.

"We allocated a lot of funding towards housing rehab this year because we have had such a long waitlist for a long time," DesRochers said.

"We want to get to the people who have been on our waiting list. So, we allocated to do 15 housing rehab programs this year."

As for the housing production plan, DesRochers said the will require another RFP and the hiring of a consultant.

"There's some buildings that the town currently owns that might be able to be repurposed into housing," said DesRochers.

"We'll be able to show the town how to create opportunities for developers so that needed affordable housing can be (created)."

How funding is decided

The \$1.4 million is part of \$34 million in federal funding allocated by the federal government and administered by the state. Director of Communications for the Department of Housing and Community Development, Samantha Kaufman, said since 2019, the town of Palmer has been one of the program's "Mini Entitlement Communities."

"These are 11 communities determined by formula to have a greater level of need and are guaranteed an award provided that they can present us with eligible activities and meet all of the application requirements," Kaufman said.

"They do not have to compete for the funds, but do need to go through the application process."

For more information on the program, visit mass.gov.

Corrections

The Journal Register will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 2 or 3. To request a correction, send information to Editor at mharrison@turley.com, or call 283-8393, extension 236. Corrections may also be requested in writing at: Journal Register, Attn: Editor 24 Water St., Palmer, MA, 01069.

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PHONE
413.283.8393
Fax: 413.283.7107
Subscriptions: 413.283.8393

EMAIL

Advertising Sales
413.283.8393

Editor
Michael Harrison
mharrison@turley.com

Staff Writer
Jonah Snowden
jsnowden@turley.com

Subscriptions
cgriwold@turley.com

\$35 per year pre-paid
(\$40 out of state)
Newsstand: \$1.00 per copy

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DEADLINE

The Journal Register has changed its firm deadline for public submissions to Mondays. To get your submission in for that week's edition, email Editor at mharrison@turley.com or call the office at 413-283-8393 by noon on Mondays. We appreciate the cooperation of our readers.

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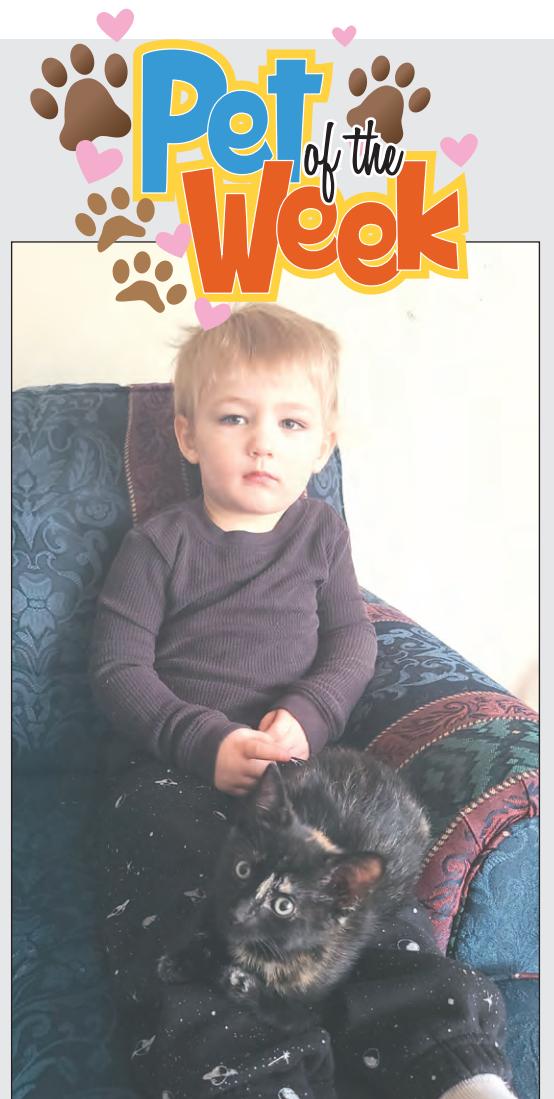
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Local resident returns to judge prestigious dog show

MONSON — Judy A. Harrington of Monson is among the judges at the 145th Annual Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show held this year in Tarrytown, N.Y., on June 13.

Due to the pandemic, the dog show was moved from its traditional winter date in New York City to an outdoor venue this spring at the Lyndhurst Estate, a property of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Harrington will judge the Working Group during her fourth judging assignment at Westminster.

Harrington bred and owner-handled Great Danes under the Justamere prefix. Her successful owner-handling led to a career as an all-breed professional handler. She is grateful to clients that entrusted her with the show careers of memorable dogs and shares her home with Australian Shepherds co-bred with Leslie Frank under the Propwash prefix.

They have received many AKC awards in conformation and performance events, including more than 100

conformation champions as well as the first dual champion in conformation and herding.

Harrington has judged multiple national specialties and Top 20 events as well as many international assignments. She judges the Sporting and Working groups, many Toy, Hound, and Herding breeds, Junior Showmanship, and Best in Show.

All daytime preliminary breed and junior showmanship judging as well as evening Group competitions will be held on Saturday, June 12, and Sunday, June 13. The Best in Show and Junior Showmanship Finals judging will be held on Sunday evening.

The dog show is preceded on Friday, June 11, by the eighth annual Masters Agility Championship at Westminster Presented by Purina Pro Plan and the sixth Annual Masters Obedience Championship at Westminster will be held on June 13.



Judy A. Harrington

The Journal Register OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

MONSON from page 1

Hull appeared skeptical throughout the discussion that the district sup to the task.

"If we're going to hang on for a year, how are we going to fix that? It's already broken," she said.

Smith seemed to signal his position before the vote.

"Things seem fixable," he said.

"It is a tight window. We always have the option of leaving next year. I just hate to rush into a typical, government knee jerk reaction."

Harrison initially appeared to back Smith.

"I think if we bail out now, it's going to be tough," he said before reversing course and voting with Hull.

Green said the town would have to budge around \$34,000 to go it alone and fund a veterans services position.

Neggers was pleased.

"Every single day someone needs help who's not getting it," she said.

"I think you can hire somebody who can start July 1. I spent dozens of hours researching this. I think it's in the best interest of veterans and their families in our town."

Monson's annual town meeting will be held on May 10 outdoors on Moriarty Field at Granite Valley School.

MYSTERY from page 1

dealer is murdered during the May show!

But, no worries. The 72-year-old sleuths, Ellen and Charlie, are in hot pursuit of the murderer. I have written five murder mysteries but this one, in particular, is about the quirky characters in a place that I've loved since the 1980s, when I first began attending Brimfield. The setting is familiar, the characters are wacky, and the jaw-dropping twists and turns make this a fun and challenging read. Stop by C-13 and the Brimfield Winery where I will be selling and signing my books. Can't wait to meet you! (book is available on amazon.com.)



Courtesy photos

McElwain Antiques showcases vintage sports, country store, and advertising collectables.

Into vintage sports?

Dealer name/DBA: McElwain Antiques, Eastern North Carolina

Contact: McElwain@nc.rr.com

What you'll find: We primarily deal in old vintage sports related items (pre 1930s) as well as country store and advertising items.

Years at the show: We have been setting at Brimfield Auction Acres since 2002 at Booth E-33

Any advice for new shoppers? Be prepared for any kind of weather (rain, sun, cold, hot).

Pro tips for first-timers:

Antique dealers have truly been affected emotionally as well as financially by not being able to participate in the Brimfield Shows last year. They miss so many of their friends (shoppers and dealers alike). To true antique dealers Brimfield is the Mecca, although with just this one show, you will get a glimpse of the eclectic mix. A great time for a new person to get an understanding of the shows – then multiply it for next July.

Be prepared for the weather – wear high boots and cash helps make the deals. (although they do take plastic) - If you can't bring it home in your car, delivery is very easy to find these days.

— The Corriveau

Pandemic guidelines

Mask wearing and social distancing is expected. "We (Auction Acres) are setting the precedent how these shows can be done responsibly, and we need all folks to comply to help us have a tremendous and socially loving show," the Corriveau say.

Candidates set for Monson town election

The following candidates will appear on the ballot for the Annual Town Election, 8 a.m.-8 p.m. June 8 at Memorial Hall, 198 Main Street.

Anyone who would like a vote by mail application can contact the clerk's office or go to monson-ma.gov by 5 p.m. June 2. The deadline to register to vote for the election is 8 p.m. May 19 (if the town office building is closed, voters can apply in person at the Main Street entrance where they will be greeted at the door. Or, register online at sec.state.ma.us/ovr.

Vote by mail ballots must be received by the close of polls on June 8.

In-person early voting will take place in the Selectmen's Conference Room located at 110 Main St. of the Town Office Building 8 a.m.-7 p.m. June 1-3.

For inquiries contact the Monson town clerk's office at: 413-267-4115 or email townclerk@monson-ma.gov.

The candidates are:

Select Board:

Jessica L. Allen
Karen Nothe-Valley
Patricia Oney

Highway Surveyor:

Benjamin Murphy

Board Of Assessors:

Allan Curtis
Christopher Haley

School Committee (three-year term)

vote for two:

Emily Graves-Harrison
Jeffrey Lord
Gennie Bailey
Alison Morgan

School Committee (one-year term)

vote for one:

Jackie Watts, Jr.
Donald Smith

Water and Sewer Commissioner:

Joseph Prior

Cemetery Commissioner:

Sarah Pedder

Parks And Recreation Commissioner

Jan-Michael DeMaio

Housing Authority (five-year term):

Loretta (Lori) Stacy

Palmer annual town election scheduled for June 8

PALMER — The annual town election is scheduled to take place 10 a.m.-8 p.m. June 8. Town Clerk Susan Coache said any residents in need of an absentee ballot must request one. There will be no early voting and protocols such as social distancing and mask-wearing will be observed all precincts.

As of April 15, the deadline to file nomination papers, the candidates who seek election are:

- Lorinda Baker, seeking re-election for a seat in the Palmer Town Council.
- Norman Czech, seeking re-election for the Palmer Planning board.
- Barber A. Barry, seeking re-election as the District 2 Councilor.

• Anthony Braden, seeking election for the Palmer School Committee.

• Karl Williams, seeking re-election as the District 3 councilor.

Precinct locations:

- Pet. 1&A, Sts. Peter and Paul Church 2267 Main St., Three Rivers.
- Pet. 2, St. Thomas Parish Center, 1076 Thorndike St., Palmer.
- Pet. 3, St. Thomas Parish Center, 1076 Thorndike St., Palmer.
- Pet. 4, Sts. Peter & Paul Parish, 2267 Main St., Three Rivers.

For more information on the town election, call the clerk's office at 413-283-2608.

Registration open for Cindy Snow poetry workshop

MONSON — Local poet Cindy Snow will present a workshop called "Ekphrastic Poetry: Hear It! See It! Write It!" in conjunction with the 27th annual Spring Art Exhibition and Sale of the Monson Arts Council.

The event, underwritten by the Monson Cultural Council, is scheduled for 6:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 19, at Memorial Hall, Main Street, Monson.

Participants in the workshop will hear examples of ekphrastic poetry that bring art to life in words. Then, using pieces in the Monson Art Council's exhibit "The Colors of Change" on display at the House of Art as inspiration, poets will compose pieces in response and then share their writing with one another in a comfortable setting.

Snow's writing has appeared in the "Massachusetts Review," "Peace Review," "Worcester Review," "Crannog," and other literary journals.

Her poetry has been nominated for a Pushcart and has won a variety of prizes. In Amsterdam, at the 2017 conference "The Changing Nature of Art and Science,"

Cindy read from her manuscript on the 17th century naturalist and botanical artist, Maria Sibylla Merian. Snow holds a MFA in Poetry from Drew University and has led many writing workshops in the area. Her chapbook, "Small Ceremonies," was published by Slate Roof Press. She coordinates writing tutors and teaches at Greenfield Community College.

Seating at the workshop is limited to fifteen people. Masks will be required. Participants will observe social distancing protocol. To register, contact Gay Paluch by e-mail gay.paluch@comcast.net or by phone 413-893-9014. The cost for the workshop is \$5. More information about the spring exhibit can be found at monsonartscouncil/artshows.

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CANDIDATE PROFILE

Lorinda Baker: 'You can't have this lifestyle in a big city'

By Jonah Snowden
jsnowden@turley.com

PALMER — Three Rivers resident and Town Council President Lorinda Baker is currently seeking another term in the upcoming town election on June 8.

She says her passion for helping her community and willingness to meet and mingle with residents is what inspires her to run for another three-year term. Between now and Election Day, we offer candidates to participate in a short Q&A:

Name: Lorinda Baker

Age: 55

Occupation: Regulatory Consultant at Empower Retirement.

Q: Why are you seeking reelection for the town council?

Baker: I like being on the council and doing what I can to help residents. If a resident calls and has an issue or needs help, I either get them the answer or get them in touch with whatever department can help. I participate in all Clean up Palmer days and help the Palmer Domestic Violence Task Force as well. Also, I serve on the Superintendent's (Patricia Gardner) Parent Advisory Group. I pretty much cannot say

no. If somebody needs help, I almost always end up trying to help them.

Q: What issues would you like to address, if reelected?

Baker: Probably the biggest thing would be bridges. We have got one that is closed on Church Street in Thorndike and another that is not much in better shape on Main Street in Thorndike. The council relies on the town manager (Ryan McNutt) to apply for grants as well as petition Rep. Todd Smola (R-Warren) and Sen. Anne Gobi (D-Spencer) to push for infrastructure dollars. There is not a lot as a counselor you can do to repair a bridge.

Q: What do you enjoy about the town of Palmer?

Baker: I moved to Palmer primarily for the schools and seeing it was a nice, quiet town. I grew up in New York, moved to West Springfield when I was in high school and then moved to Springfield and did not want to send my child to the Springfield Public Schools at the time. When we looked for an area, the schools in Palmer is really what drew me in. As for the community, I love knowing all my neighbors. Everyone watches out for each other, it is just a nice small community. You cannot have this in a big city.

Smola supports \$400M bond bill to rebuild Holyoke Soldiers' Home

BOSTON — State Rep. Todd M. Smola (R-Warren, Ranking Member, Committee on Ways & Means) recently supported legislation to finance the reconstruction and modernization of the Holyoke Soldiers' Home.

House Bill 3701, which reflects an amended version of a bill that was originally filed by Gov. Charlie Baker, was engrossed by the House of Representatives on a vote of 160-0 on April 15. The bill authorizes the state to borrow up to \$400 million for rebuilding the Soldiers' Home, which Governor Baker says is "necessary for the health, safety, and comfort of future generations of veterans and staff" at the facility.

Smola said the bill authorizes the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance to begin the design and development phase for a new Soldiers' Home that will meet federal standards and guidelines for long term care and adult day health services. He noted that passage of the bill is needed in both legislative branches before the state can apply for up to \$260 million in federal

matching funds through the federal Veterans Administration's State Veterans Home Construction Grant Program.

House Bill 3701 also includes language requiring the use of a Project Labor Agreement for the construction of the new Holyoke Soldiers' Home, which was not in the Governor's original bill. In addition to establishing a uniform grievance and arbitration procedure to resolve work-related disputes, the Project Labor Agreement prohibits workers on the project from going on strike.

Opened in 1952, the Holyoke Soldiers' Home is one of two state-run veterans' facilities in Massachusetts. In 2017, the Legislature approved a capital bond bill that included \$199 million in bond authorizations to rebuild the Chelsea Soldiers' Home, which was established in 1882.

House Bill 3701 now moves to the Senate for its consideration. For additional information please contact Smola at Todd.Smola@mahouse.gov or 617-722-2100.

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Viewpoints

COMMENTS ON CONGRESS

Summing up democracy

By Lee H. Hamilton
Guest columnist

It's so easy, in the course of our day-to-day lives, to get caught up in the political pre-occupations of the moment. What's the Senate going to do about the filibuster? How should infrastructure money be spent? Is the country going to come out of this year as badly divided as it started? These and many other questions matter a lot, but sometimes, it's helpful to step back and take stock of what we've learned over the course of our history. I've been thinking about this because I've been reading Jon Meacham's 2018 book, "The Soul of America: The Battle for Our Better Angels." In it, Meacham notes that we've been badly divided and knocked back on our heels in the past but have always managed to work our way through those difficulties. He cites a variety of writers and speakers, and a number of them have stuck with me because they're both reassuring and a challenge. They remind us that sustaining our democracy is hard work and that its vitality depends on each of us, not just to participate, but to make the effort to understand and talk to people we don't agree with, and to do our best to discern the facts on which all genuine progress relies. Here they are, with a couple I've added on my own that speak to the same issues:

"Do not expect to accomplish anything without an effort." Teddy Roosevelt said this in an 1883 speech called, "The Duties of American Citizenship."

"The first duty of an American citizen, then, is that he shall work in politics." This is Roosevelt again, in the same speech, making the point, in the language of the time, that being an American citizen means being willing to engage in the work of democracy.

"Speak up, show up and stand up." That's Georgia's Stacey Abrams laying out, in concise form, the basic challenges for anyone trying to affect the course of public life.

"Progress on this journey often comes in small increments." This is Meacham himself, with a reminder that progress comes slow and hard.

"Nowhere is the rule of public opinion so complete as in America, or so direct." This was Englishman James Bryce, writing in *The American Commonwealth*, which appeared in 1888.

"People are responsible for the government they get." Harry Truman summed up our core responsibility: we have to choose our political leaders wisely.

"It is not only important, but mentally invigorating to discuss political matters with people whose opinions differ radically from one's own." Eleanor Roosevelt wrote this in a book published when she was 76, "You Learn by Living: Eleven Keys for a More Fulfilling Life."

"The enemy of America is not our many Muslim friends. It is not our many Arab friends. Our enemy is a radical network of terrorists and every government that supports them." I include this remark by George W. Bush, in a speech he gave to a joint session of Congress following the 9/11 attacks, because it's a cogent reminder that keeping our eye on the target matters in public policy.

"The people have often made mistakes, but given time and the facts, they will make the corrections." This was Truman again. I like his confidence.

"America of the 21st century is, for all its shortcomings, freer and more accepting than it has ever been." Meacham makes it clear that our nation, despite its many stumbles, has moved toward progress, in no small part because the American people, as Truman suggests above, have set it on that course.

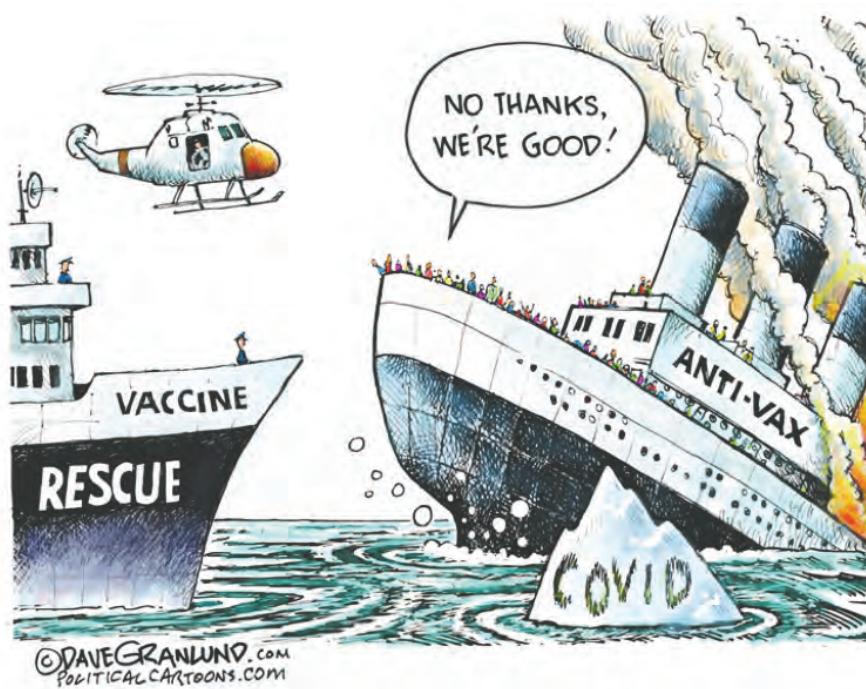
"It is in order that each one of you may have through this free government which we have enjoyed, an open field and a fair chance for your industry, enterprise and intelligence... The nation is worth fighting for, to secure such an inestimable jewel." Abraham Lincoln said this in 1864. His words remind us that safeguarding a freely chosen, democratically elected government that creates the conditions for each of us to succeed by dint of our efforts is what engaging in politics is all about.

Lee Hamilton is a senior advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

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Journal Register



How to plant a bare root apple tree

Sometimes I wish I had bought for the land and not for the house. In my dreams, I'd have a field big enough to grow all the pumpkins a girl could want, and a sunny slope to have an amazing orchard of heirloom apple trees. Maybe someday, but for now I squeeze in apple trees here and apple trees there. One outside the chicken coop. Three in the perennial border. And as of this past weekend two more near the clothesline. Read on to see how I did it.

Planting a tree is not like planting a bush or a perennial plant. Should you make a mistake about the placement of those you can easily dig them up and move them. I think my parents moved their blueberries twice without injury to the bushes. Trees are a whole different story; you want to do it right the first time.

I was home all day on Friday, scoping out the yard. You think you know where the sunny spots are; fruit trees want at least six hours of full sun, until you document it by the hour. Overhead trees are not leafed out yet, so that has to be taken into consideration, but even so, one area I assumed to be sunny was actually in shade most of the day; another area was just the opposite. Voilà! It is a perfect spot for the fruit trees!

I then began to fret that the soil there would not be good enough, and without any finished compost on hand to amend the hole, my planting would be delayed even further. Lucky for me adding lots of peat or compost to the planting hole is old advice. These days we want the roots to extend far beyond the original hole. If the soil is too good there the roots will never want to leave. This way, over the long-term, they will go looking for nourishment and anchor themselves into the surrounding soil.

I began the task of digging a three foot wide by two foot deep hole. I shook the sod and placed it in a clump for the compost pile. The topsoil was put on plastic in one spot and the subsoil in an-

other. Large rocks were discarded. Happily, I did have some rock phosphate left on hand from last fall. I sprinkled one cup, and found out later that one pound was the recommendation! in the planting hole and scratched it in. It will aid in root development. I also took my shovel and loosed the "walls" of the hole to make it easier for the roots to penetrate as they spread.

Most grafted trees should be planted with the graft union two to three inches above the soil line. I positioned the bare-root tree in the hole and made a quick measurement with a stick across the hole. The graft union was too deep, so I mounded a little soil under the roots. That adjustment brought the tree to the correct depth. I dumped some water in next to collapse air pockets and then shoveled in the topsoil. Experts recommend that you backfill the hole with topsoil first, it is more friable, and then place the subsoil elsewhere in the hole, tamping down as you go, with your feet.

I made a basin around the tree after I was finished, a slightly sunken area to catch water. Eventually I will add a layer of compost on top and apply some mulch in the form of shredded bark or hay to create a happy environment for all of the "feeder" roots. If Mother Nature doesn't provide at least an inch of rain per week I will trickle water slowly into the basin twice a week to help establish the tree.

Although a few years will pass before I pick those first fruits, hopefully proper planting will ensure years of fruitfulness.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

Technology's impact on sleep

By Diane Testa

Anyone driving west on the Mass Pike in recent months may have noticed an Xfinity billboard announcing, "Give your Wi-Fi a bedtime." One may wonder why the tech industry is promoting the shutting off of a wireless device at night. The company's goal is to offer parents a tool for managing their children's screen time. So is screen time affecting sleep? Moreover, are electronic devices affecting the quality of sleep? This article explores some of the science behind these questions.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention states that adults need between seven to nine hours of sleep per night for proper health, while teenagers need even more sleep, between eight to 10 hours per night. However, their website indicates that roughly one third of adults in America receive inadequate sleep due to various factors. In a CDC survey from 2013, almost 70% of teenagers reported obtaining insufficient sleep. Part of the reason could be that 75% of them sleep with their phone beneath their pillow, as reported by a Pew Research study.

Screen time is one factor contributing to sleep disturbances. The daily exposure to sunlight presents the brain with all colors of light, and the blue light within sunlight, in particular, helps to keep people more alert and uplift one's mood during the day. A computer monitor or a cell phone screen emits artificial light that is comprised of disproportionately more blue light than is contained in natural

sunlight. Since the brain is particularly sensitive to blue light, the excess stimulation from electronic screens can impact the body's natural circadian rhythm, or sleep-wake cycle. Blue light causes this disruption in one of two ways: by diminishing the release of a brain hormone called melatonin and by suppressing the type of brainwaves that induce sleep. Melatonin is the primary hormone that regulates the body's sleep-wake cycle. Therefore, the use of screens in the evening or even excessively during the day has significant impacts on the ability to fall asleep or to remain asleep during the night.

Researchers at Harvard University Medical School have reported on the adverse impact of blue light from screens on sleep, and have also noted that the energy-efficient LED lights that many people are now using in their homes emit an excess of blue light. They suggest wearing glasses that specifically filter the blue light of the screens and avoiding screens two to three hours before bedtime. One additional suggestion is to spend a good amount of time outdoors to be exposed to natural sunlight, which will improve the quality of sleep.

Last month, the Royal Society of Arts in England awarded a fellowship to its youngest ever recipient, a 15-year old boy named Montgomery Lord, for his research demonstrating that the use of technology at bedtime disrupts the circadian rhythm. This prestigious award places him among brilliant minds such as Benjamin Franklin and Stephen Hawking. Through

the United Nations, Lord launched a citizen science project called iTech Explorers to study screen time's impact on adolescents, with the aim to influence government decision makers to improve children's health. His research reported that roughly 75% of teens felt their diminished sleep due to tech use affected their concentration and productivity during the day.

Dr. Victoria Dunckley, an award-winning integrative psychiatrist from Los Angeles, is an expert on the effects of electronic screen time on children's brain development. In her book, *Reset Your Child's Brain*, Dr. Dunckley discusses how interactive electronic screen time hyperstimulates the physiological processes in the developing brain of a young person. She explains that there is a difference in the way the brain processes passive screen time – watching TV from across the room – versus interactive screen time, such as playing video games. The hyperarousal taking place in the brain due to interacting with screens alters brain chemistry and ultimately interferes with behavior, mood, and even sleep. Too much interactive screen time causes children to have non-restorative sleep, which brings on a host of other health problems. One disturbing disorder that can arise in children is night terrors due to the chronic stress experienced by the brain from excessive screen time. In this case, a child will wake up in the middle of the night, thrashing and screaming, due to the sudden release of fight-or-flight chemicals in his brain.

Shockingly, imaging studies

of video-game addicted young people show the same patterns as those adults addicted to drugs. Dr. Dunckley has been able to help over 500 screen-addicted children, teens and young adults regain their normal health by taking on a month-long "fast" from the use of electronics. Another way that wireless electronics impact sleep is due to the pulsed and polarized electromagnetic fields (EMFs) that they produce. Electrical engineers at the University of Melbourne, Australia have demonstrated that the force exerted on the body by these EMFs causes a disturbance in cells' metabolic processes; one critical effect is a reduction in the production of melatonin. Consequently, all Americans can benefit from following Xfinity's advice, to "give your Wi-Fi a bedtime." It is best to locate computers and gaming systems outside of the bedroom, and to put substantial limits on screen time for youth, particularly in the hour or two before bedtime. A free software called f.lux can be downloaded to a computer, to adjust the spectrum of light being emitted from the monitor during the day. Also, cell phones can be placed in airplane mode before going to bed. Sleep well and pleasant dreams!

Wilbraham resident Diane Testa holds a doctorate in biomedical engineering and is a senior lecturer in engineering at Western New England University. She writes about technology's impacts on health from her hardwired computer and can be reached for comment at wiredinwilbraham@gmail.com.

Letters to the Editor

Disputes anti-mask opinion

While I commend Finn Sliwoski for his excellent writing skills at such a young age, I find it appalling that as editor you chose to publish his letter without comment or rebuttal.

As a fourth grader, Finn does not have the experience or academic background to be suggesting that mask wearing during the COVID-19 pandemic should be optional, against the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and the state mandate set forth by Governor Charlie Baker.

I hope that this youngster will soon learn the importance of public cooperation and mutual support in overcoming events that threaten our safety as a community and as a nation.

Lynne Z. Bassett
Palmer

Don't stigmatize autism

In the April 22, 2021 issue of the Journal Register, there is an article titled "Chicopee recognizes Autism Awareness Month" that states that "Autism spectrum disorder now affects one in 68 children... As one of the country's fastest growing developmental disorders, a child is more likely to suffer from ASD than diabetes, cancer, and AIDS combined." There are two things wrong with this:

Comparing autism to diseases like diabetes, AIDS, and cancer suggests that autism, too, is a disease – something to be feared. This is simply not true. Autism is a developmental disability that affects how people (autistic people) experience the world around them, and autistic people are an important part of this world.

Calling autism "one of the fastest growing developmental disorders" in the U.S. also suggests autism is a disease. It also suggests that autism itself is on the rise, which is false. Autism has always existed – its diagnoses that are on the rise (due to greater understanding of autism).

Such misinformation only perpetuates the stigma surrounding autism.

Kylee Teixeira
Monson



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Election letters to the editor welcome

The Journal Register welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to The Journal Register, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to mharrison@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

For more information, call editor Michael Harrison at 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the newspaper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.

Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact advertising, 413-283-8393 about paid advertising in The Journal Register.

Letters to the editor policy

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length, and guest columns between 500-800 words. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require that the person submitting the opinion also include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must confirm authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, or defamation of character.

Please send opinions to: The Journal Register Letter to the Editor 24 Water St., Palmer MA 01069, or by e-mail to: mharrison@turley.com

The submission deadline for consideration is Monday at noon.

The Journal Register

The Journal Register (USPS 418-940) is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Journal Register, 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069.

PATRICK H. TURLEY

CEO

KEITH TURLEY

President

EDITOR

Michael Harrison

mharrison@turley.com

STAFF WRITER

Jonah Snowden

jsnowden@turley.com

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ODE from page 1

sequent video – “Lean On Me/Stand By You.”

Both the song and video, which features an actress from Monson, will debut online May 6, the first day of National Nurses Week. Anyone can stream the video on YouTube or Facebook and Newland and his current band, RadioX, will follow the debut with a live, 45-minute set.

Another component is the social media initiative #thxrcrvr (Thanks Caregiver), which has Facebook and Instagram pages called thxrcrvr.

“The thing I love about this is it’s a simple ask,” Newland says.

“We’re not asking for money, not asking anyone to take a political side or anything with baggage. They just need support,” Newland says, referring to frontline health workers.

“They need thanks, they need gratitude. A lot of what they do goes under the radar. The simplicity of the ask is for something that can have a great impact. It’s not a platform for me to get more visibility. Don’t thank me for doing it – thank them!”

Birth of music video

A year ago, Newland, like everyone else, was learning to navigate the new normal of passing time in quarantine and digesting news coverage of the still mysterious virus. His thoughts went to the doctors, nurses, paramedics, and everyone else caring for the sick and dying.

“When the pandemic was declared in March of 2020, foremost in my thoughts was the cohort of healthcare professionals and support staff upon whom the burden of care was going to fall,” he says.

“Because of social media, we have had a remarkable window into what they are going through and how they are feeling. All of this has played out in a media climate that is dominated by a daily cycle of hyper events that have the effect of obscuring their remarkable work

and sacrifice.”

The song started taking shape early in the lockdown.

“I began writing ‘Lean On Me/Stand By You’ when I realized the difficult times we were headed toward,” Newland says.

It centered on “a young family confronting a health scare,” but shifted after feedback from a friend and fellow songwriter.

“I shared it with Taylor Dunn, a writer friend of mine from Nashville, and he told me that he thought my scope was too narrow. He felt that the song had an anemic quality and the possibility of a much broader appeal,” Newland says.

“I took his advice and rewrote it. The song told me what it wanted to be: a song for and about everyone with an emphasis on the frontline healthcare workers.”

After he finished re-working the song, Newland recorded it remotely with the help of A-list Nashville session guitarist Jeff King and his team and Grammy-winning producer/engineer Matt McClure.

“Taylor’s response was, ‘You nailed it – now you have to make a video.’”

Inspired by real-life cell phone videos of frontline healthcare workers and news footage of crowds in New York and Paris standing on balconies cheering and serenading healthcare workers between shifts, the video was produced remotely with the help of West Springfield photographer/videographer Walt Steinmetz along with production team members Andrea Newland and David Newland.

The video stars Erin Greene Wallace of Greene Room Productions in Monson.

“Erin did great job playing a day in the life of a nurse,” Newland says. “Nurses who saw it think so.”

Although challenging at times, the project, including recording the song itself, wasn’t nearly as difficult as Newland thought it might be.

“It was incredibly easy,” he says.

“We’re in the digital age and 80 percent of recordings are being done virtually anyway. Musicians would go into the studio so you could capture the keyboards or bass, but COVID slammed the door on that so I called Jeff King and said ‘what do we need to do to do the other 20 percent?’ He said if you can get me a guitar track cut to a click and sign, we can build off that,” Newland says, explaining the recording lingo for a time signature to guide the other contributing musicians.

“We did that and the results were shocking to me. They were astounding. You can’t tell it’s not five or six people sitting together in a room.”

Going forward, Newland says besides “saying a simple ‘thank you’” to frontline workers, he’s working on shedding the quarantine vibe and gradually re-integrating back to being in public.

It happened so gradually, I found it isn’t as easy to open back up as I thought it would be. It’s not as easy as just walking out the door. We developed a whole new way and I think we’re all living with some form of PTSD. What a great way to start emerging from this by being proactive with acts of gratitude and one of the things I can do is to say ‘thank you’ to people who perform such important service.”

Want to see it?

The song and video will premiere in a live-streamed event from Total Eclipse Studios at 7 p.m. May 6 on Newland’s Facebook page (peter.newland.71) and on his YouTube channel (Peter J Newland – no period after the “J.”).

Flush will begin shortly after 7 p.m. on Sunday, May 9, and will continue until the system is completed.

Dirty water may be experienced periodically throughout the week in the entire district. The district suggests that you obtain an adequate storage of water before the flush-

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Snowed-out river cleanup rescheduled

PALMER — The Palmer Conservation Commission had to postpone the Earth Day River Cleanup scheduled for April 17 due to a storm that delivered about six-inches of snow to the Town of Palmer. The cleanup event has been rescheduled to occur 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, May 8, at Laviolette Field in Three Rivers.

The Palmer Conservation Commission, in partnership with American Rivers, the Chicopee 4 Rivers Watershed Council, Keep Palmer Clean, and Country Bank will conduct a river cleanup with the help of volunteers.

“The Palmer Conservation Commission is dedicated to protecting Palmer’s Rivers because a healthy community starts with a healthy river,” said Sarah Fortune, conservation assistant for the Town of Palmer. “Clean and healthy rivers provide everything from clean drinking water to recreation opportunities to fish and wildlife habitat. So come get your feet wet, your hands dirty, and help make our rivers cleaner!”

Four rivers – the Quaboag, Ware, Swift and Chicopee – are vital to the area.

“The Palmer Conservation Commission is committed to keeping our four major rivers clean so we can protect and restore them for us – and future genera-



Courtesy photo

A planned river cleanup had to be postponed. The new date is May 8. Volunteers are needed to help remove trash and other debris.

tions,” Fortune said.

“Participating in a river cleanup is one way that citizens can do their part for the rivers we all love. Rivers connect us to each other, to nature, and to future generations. It

is wonderful to see so many people in Palmer and across the country taking action to protect and restore their rivers and clean water,” said Bob Irvin, president of American Rivers.

“We applaud the work of the Palmer Conservation Commission and the Chicopee 4 Rivers Watershed Council for the work they do on behalf of the river and the community.”

The Earth Day River Cleanup will be held at Laviolette Field in Three Rivers – rain or shine. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Volunteers will be required to adhere to all COVID-19 safety guidelines and social distancing protocols during the event.

Light refreshments will be provided to volunteers in appreciation for their participation. Contact Fortune at 413-626-7084 or sfortune@townofpalmer.com to volunteer or for more information.

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POSTPONEMENT:

We are so sorry but our May Scrabble Night and our May Basket Raffle will be postponed. At this time we are uncertain as to when they will be rescheduled.

POSITION AVAILABLE

TFL is seeking a **Director of Adult Literacy/Operations Officer** who is passionate about helping adult learners meet their educational goals. The successful candidate will work closely with TFL's Board of Trustees, tutors, students, volunteers, and community businesses/organizations of the Quaboag Hills region and surrounding areas. General responsibilities will include: • Recruiting, matching, and training volunteer tutors. • Organizing and administering all programs of adult instruction, such as ESL, Reading, Writing, Math, HiSET, Computer Skills, and many more! • Being aware of community educational needs and interests.

• Providing educational guidance to assist adult learners in meeting their educational goals. • Coordinating fundraising and promotional efforts with a team of volunteers.

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***Be sure to indicate "Summer" in the subject line of your email.**



Peter Izyk teaches a session on tree growth in front of the Pollinator Garden to Cub Scouts with Pack 164 from Palmer.



The session includes an activity where the Scouts gather nutrients while staying on their location with their foot as a tap root.



Pack leaders and Scouts draw their life as a tree on a paper plate with the tree rings representing their age. The plate was used in the activity where the Scouts grabbed colored sponges representing sun, water and nutrients needed in plant growth. A discussion followed on how well the tree did by the number of each of the sponges collected.



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giving a history of the Horace A. Moses Scout Reservation.

WHOA is held monthly from fall through spring at the reservation and is open to all youth and adults. Depending on the season there are many different activities available including the climbing wall, shooting sports, ice fishing, escape room, orientation, maple sugaring, tomahawk throwing, blacksmithing and ecology.

Anyone interested in the WHOA programs can check it out on the council web site wmascouting.org.

Pack 164 gets down and dirty with nature adventure

PALMER — The Western Massachusetts Council, BSA Conservation Committee provided activities at this month's Wronoak Heights Outdoor Adventures held April 24.

The committee's presentations were at the Pollinator Garden which was built by the committee. Conservation Committee Chair Dr. Steve Scannell explained what a Pollinator Garden is and assisted youth who planted native bulbs to add to the garden. Committee member Robert Kidd talked about birds and the different bird houses placed in and around the Pollinator Garden as well as

Town: Store water ahead of system flush

PALMER — Palmer Water District 1 will be conducting a system flush during the week of May 9-14.

Flushing will begin shortly after 7 p.m. on Sunday, May 9, and will continue until the system is completed.

Dirty water may be experienced periodically throughout this week in the entire district. The district suggests that

you obtain an adequate storage of water before the flushing begins and to monitor the water throughout the week.

The Palmer Water District regrets any inconvenience during the flushing operation, but it is necessary for the maintenance of the system, officials said.

Call 283-8411 with any questions or concerns.

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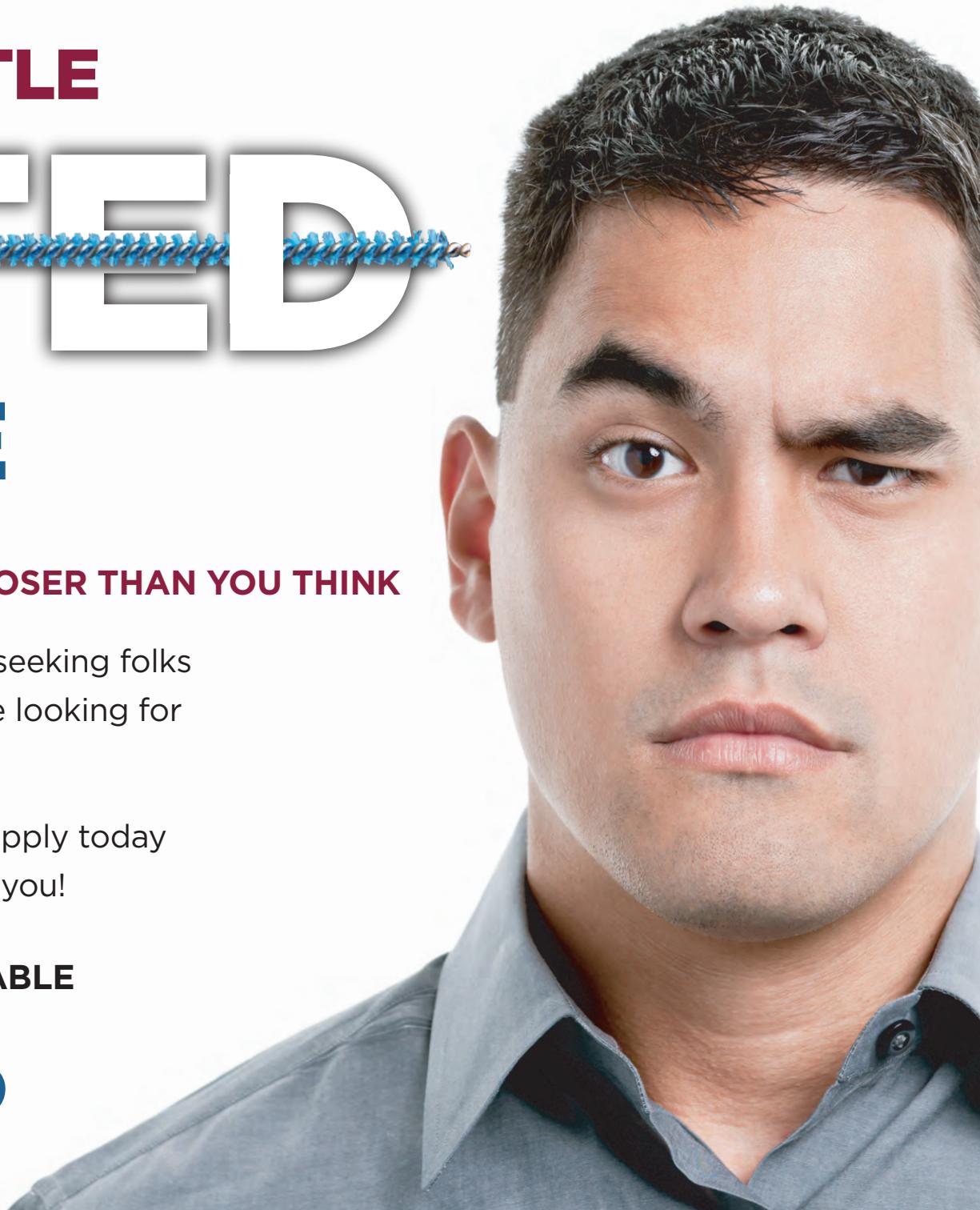
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FOOTBALL

Panthers drop finale to rival Lions

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—Two of the seniors listed on the Ludlow football roster are Chris Fogg and Cam LaPatin.

The duo has been playing football games against Palmer since the third grade and they've never been on the losing side.

The Lions, who had outscored the Panthers, 92-8, during the previous three meetings on Thanksgiving morning, closed out the Fall II football season with a 21-14 home victory, last Friday night.

"Palmer is our biggest rivals in football, and we've never lost a game to them," said Fogg, who has been the Lions starting quarterback for the past three seasons. "It just feels amazing to defeat them again in my final high school game."

It was the first time in the past 50 years that the football game between Palmer and Ludlow didn't take place on Thanksgiving morning.

Overall, Ludlow (3-3) holds a 40-30-3 edge in the rivalry series. The Lions have won eight of the past nine games. The only year that



Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Jacob Mastalerz and Drew McAlary work together to make a tackle.



Brady Goguen takes the ball on a carry.



Quarterback Jack Letendre makes a hand off.

the Panthers (1-1) celebrated a win during that span was in 2016 by the final score of 34-6.

"We only lost to Palmer once since I've been the head coach," said Ludlow head coach Ray Saloio. "This was a very close game tonight. Our defense forced four turnovers, which was huge."

Fogg scored a pair of rushing touchdowns during last Friday's contest,

while LaPatin, who's a two-way starter, recovered a fumble.

Senior Ethan Lapa, who's a first-year member of the Ludlow football team, also played a major role in this year's contest.

"Ethan made a huge impact on our team this year," Fogg said. "He's a soccer player, but he adapted to football very quickly. He played a great game tonight."

Lapa, who was also a key member of the Lions boys' varsity soccer team, had three interceptions in last Friday's game. He caught a touchdown pass from Fogg on a two-point conversion play and added an extra point.

"It was a lot of fun playing

football with my best friends and it's something that I'll never forget," said Lapa, who had six interceptions this season. "They always tried to get me to play football, but soccer is my main sport."

The other Ludlow seniors are Jamonte Beckett, Tom Hitchcock, Antwone Webb, Jake LaDuke, Joe Villano, Zach Krutka, and Nolan Ayers.

"It's a close-knit group and I'm going to miss coaching them next year," Saloio said. "I'm just glad that they had the opportunity to play some games during the Fall II season."

The Panthers, who began the Fall II season with a 32-0 shutout victory at Chicopee on March 20, dealt with a lot of COVID-19 related issues during the past month. They had a total of four games canceled.

"I thought my team played very well in tonight's game," said Palmer head coach Matt Marciniec. "I was an assistant football coach about ten years ago and we missed a whole week due to an October snowstorm,

PANTHERS | page 8

MIAA

Spring sports to commence after long wait

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION — On June 15, 2019, Katelyn Thompson and the Minnechaug Regional High School softball team defeated Pittsfield High School to win the Western Massachusetts Division 1 championship.

Since around that time, spring sports, baseball, softball, lacrosse, tennis, and boys volleyball have not been played.

The COVID-19 pandemic stopped high school sports in their track in early March 2020. Several delays were made to the spring sports season until an unprecedented cancellation took place when in-person school was cancelled for the remainder for the 2019-2020 school year. It robbed Class of 2020 players in all spring sports their final curtain call, and their final opportunity to fight for sectional, individual, and state success in their respective sports.

Next week, beginning on May 5, Granby lacrosse will face Monson with the Mustangs hosting the boys and the Rams hosting the girls. That action will be among the first spring sports to take place in nearly 23 months.

In June, spring sports will participate in sectional tournaments for the first time since March 2020 when the winter sports held their tournaments. Tournaments were not held for the first three seasons of this school year.

The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association sponsored a "Fall 2" season that wrapped up just last week with football action leading the way along with some basketball, indoor track, and girls volleyball among teams that were unable to participate in the first two seasons of the year. Cheerleaders also had the opportunity to participate in the Fall 2 season.

Practices for spring sports began earlier this week and it is a very quick turnaround to get games underway, with several starting on Wednesday, May 5. This only allows for about seven or eight practice sessions before that date.

But because of unpredictable weather coming out of the winter, spring sports are used to a condensed schedule, especially baseball and softball, which often need more ideal weather in order to play games as soggy and muddy fields can make for more dangerous play.

Sports are scheduled to run

SPRING | page 8

AUTO RACING



Submitted photo
Joey "Pole" Polewarczyk Jr. took the win in the first race of the year at Stafford Motor Speedway.

'Pole' takes first race in Granite Series

STAFFORD, Conn. — It didn't take long for Joey "Pole" Polewarczyk Jr. to figure out the half-mile of Stafford Motor Speedway on Saturday, April 24. The defending Granite State Pro Stock Series champion took the lead on lap 15 from Eddie MacDonald and never looked back en route to the triumph in the Casagrande Builders 75.

Pole crossed the line over six seconds ahead of hometown favorite Cory Casagrande, with seven-time Seekonk Speedway champion David Darling finishing third.

"What an awesome track, thanks to Stafford for having the Granite State Pro Stock Series," Pole said. "That's one of the best cars I've ever had. It really came in during the race. I loved that there were almost no cautions, and we were able to run our own pace. It feels really good to come down here to Stafford and win."

RACING | page 8

BASKETBALL



Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Olivia Chrzan goes for the layup.

Knights spoil Senior Day for Mustangs

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

MONSON — For the second time in a span of 10 days, the Holyoke girls varsity basketball team traveled to Monson High School and defeated the Lady Mustangs by less than 10 points.

With the score tied in the final seconds of regulation, Holyoke sophomore Bianca Ortiz-Cordero stole a pass and scored a fast-break lay-up giving the Purple Knights an exciting 61-59 victory at Michael J. Kane Gymnasium, last Tuesday.

"I couldn't have made the steal and the lay-up on the last play of the game without the help of my teammates," said Ortiz-Cordero, who finished the game with a team-high 27 points. "It was just a great feeling after I made that basket."

The Purple Knights (13-1), who led by as many as 16 points during the second half, lost their first game of the Fall II season at Hampshire Regional twenty-four hours earlier.

"I'm really pleased with the composure that my team showed at the end of today's game," said Holyoke head coach Andrea Enright. "It was a back-and-forth type of a game. Bianca just stepped up for us at the end. She's known as a shooter, but I think we're at our best when she drives to the basket."

Ortiz-Cordero made four 3-pointers in the contest.

It was a disappointing loss for the Lady Mustangs (6-3), especially for the three seniors, who were looking to win their final home game.



Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Madison Bonneau flies as she gets her shot off.

"I've been a member of the varsity basketball team since I was a freshman and I have a lot of wonderful memories playing basketball games in this gym," said Monson senior Sydnie DeVries. "I'm kind of sad right now because this was my final home game of my high school career. We really wanted to win this game."

DeVries, who'll be playing college basketball at Southern New Hampshire University, scored 13 points in her final home game. A couple of days later, she scored a career-high 31 points in a 63-44 win at Sabins in the season finale. DeVries finished her outstanding high school basketball career as the team's second all-time leading scorer.

"I'm really looking forward to watching Syd play college basketball during the next four

MONSON | page 8

ATHLETES

Nomination remain open for Monson Hall of Fame

MONSON — The Monson High School Athletic Hall of Fame is accepting nominations for its 10th class. People can nominate in the following categories: Athlete; Athletic staff, faculty; team; or "other" which includes an individual or group who has made contributions to Monson Athletics in some other capacity. The deadline for nominations has been extended to June 1. With all

that has been going on in the past year-plus, the committee wishes to give more for people to nominate. For more information to make a nomination, please contact James Duggan at jamesduggan@comcast.net. As of now, the committee is unsure whether or not there will be an induction ceremony, but the committee is hopeful an in-person ceremony can happen later this year.

Monadnock opener set for next weekend

WINCHESTER, N.H. — On Saturday, May 1, Monadnock Speedway will be back in action for the 2021 Season. Although there will be some COVID19 restriction that will remain in place for capacity and social distancing, the speedway has added on 1400 more seats to accommodate the restrictions.

The season opener will be a two-day event this year with the Tri Track Modified Series as the headline on Saturday (May 1) and Granite State Pro Stock Series on (May 2). There will be a practice session held on Friday (April 30) from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The divisions scheduled on Saturday are 100 Lap Tri Track Modified Series, NHSTRA Modifieds, Pro Truck Series, Mini Stocks, Pure Stocks, Young Guns and Classic Lites. Race time is at 5 p.m. The Sunday line up will include 100 Lap Granite State Pro Stock Series, NHSTRA Modifieds, Late Models, Street Stocks, NELCAR Legends and Enduros. Race Time is at 2 p.m.

Advanced General Admission Tickets and Reserved Camping Sites area available for purchase at www.monadnockspeedway.com. Pit Admission tickets will not be available in advanced and are available for purchase on the day of the event.

For more information, go to the speedway's website at monadnockspeedway.com or call 603-239-4067.

MONSON | from page 7

years," said Monson head coach Tim Pascale. "She's one of the hardest working players that I've coached here."

DeVries, along with classmates Kylie Medeiros and Madison Bonneau were honored during a postgame ceremony.

"I've been coaching the three seniors since they played for a Suburban League team when they were in the seventh grade," Pascale said. "I'm going to miss them not only as basketball players, but they're also great kids. It was a joy to come to practice every day this season and it was a lot of fun coaching them."

Medeiros, who's a first-year member of the varsity team, made her first career varsity start against Holyoke and scored two points. She'll be attending Westfield State University in the fall. Bonneau, who's a three-year member of the varsity team, will be attending Norwich University, which is the oldest private military college in the United States, located in Northfield, Vermont.

"I've always dreamed about becoming a nurse and I also want to serve my country," Bonneau said. "I think what we have here in this country is a privilege and I just want to keep it that way. After I graduate from Norwich, I'll be a second lieutenant in the Army."

Bonneau, who's planning on



Syndie DeVries makes her way down the court.



Tennessee Murphy floats a shot at the hoop.

playing soccer in college, made a 3-pointer less than a minute into the opening quarter, which were her only points. She also did a very good job of defending Ortiz-Cordero during the second half. Freshman Sierra Martinson also guarded Ortiz-Cordero in the second half.

"We made a defensive adjustment in the second half," Pascale said. "We had two players guarding Ortiz-Cordero, who's a heck of a basketball player. We held Holyoke to only 21 points in the second half. It was a great contest against a Division 1 team. I'm very proud of the effort by

my players."

Junior Yamaya Perez, who also made five shots from beyond the arc for the Purple Knights, finished with 22 points.

The two seniors listed on the Holyoke varsity roster are Taryn Ryan (5 points) and Nathalie-malee Vazquez (2 points), who had been sidelined most of the season with an injury.

The Lady Mustangs leading scorer was eighth grader Olivia Chrzan, who scored 15 of her 27 points in the second half.

"Olivia is an awesome basketball player," Pascale said.

With 2:22 remaining in regulation, a DeVries put-back hoop made the score 59-57 Holyoke.

She then made a pair of free

throws tying the score for the first time since the second quarter.

"Sometimes you forget that she's only in the eighth grade. The sky is the limit for her and I'm looking forward to coaching her during the next four years."

Chrzan scored 12 points during the first eight minutes, which helped her team build a 19-14 lead.

Holyoke controlled things offensively during the second stanza, as they outscored Monson, 26-9. They made a total of five 3-pointers in that quarter.

The Purple Knights, who held a 40-28 halftime advantage, put-together an 8-2 run during the first three minutes of the third quarter. A 3-pointer by junior Kleriz Matos (3 points) increasing Holyoke's lead to 48-32.

The Lady Mustangs began their comeback at that point, as they closed out the third quarter with a 13-7 run.

Chrzan scored seven of those points, while eighth grader Tennessee Murphy (8 points) made four straight foul shots.

Then field goals by Chrzan, Murphy, and DeVries reduced Monson's deficit to 55-51 with six minutes remaining in regulation.

With 2:22 remaining in regulation, a DeVries put-back hoop made the score 59-57 Holyoke. She then made a pair of free throws tying the score for the first time since the second quarter.

RACING | from page 7

While Pole pulled away from a 24-car field, only a few cautions slowed the action. Early, it was a caution for a stopped Rick Duzlak in turn one, then an accident collected both Mike O'Sullivan and Craig Bushey on lap 11. From there, the caution flag was never used again. Pole drove by McDonald and left the rest of the field behind him, with DJ Shaw, Casagrande and Darling battling for second over the final 30 laps.

Casagrande got by Shaw for second on lap 56, with Darling on his bumper — then the two battled for the runner-up spot for the final 20 laps. Casagrande would beat Darling by a small margin at the finish.

MacDonald finished fourth, while former series champion Derek Griffith rallied from an early pit stop to round out the top-five. Devin O'Connell was sixth, followed by Shaw, Gabe Brown, Derek Gluchacki and Angelo Belsito.

Shaw, Griffith and Casagrande won heat rac-

es earlier in the day, while Shaw also set fast time in time trials.

The Granite State Pro Stock Series returns to the track on Sunday, May 2 at Monadnock Speedway.

For more information on the Granite State Pro Stock Series, visit gsps.net and follow the series on social media.

THE FINISH:

1. Joey Pole
2. Cory Casagrande
3. David Darling
4. Eddie MacDonald
5. Derek Griffith
6. Devin O'Connell
7. DJ Shaw
8. Gabe Brown
9. Derek Gluchacki
10. Angelo Belsito
11. Mike Mitchell
12. Bryan Kruzeck
13. Mike Scorzelli
14. Kevin Casper
15. Josh King
16. Tyler Tomassi
17. Alexander Pearl
18. Luke Hinkley
19. Casey Call
20. Bobby Pelland III
21. Adam Gray
22. Craig Bushey
23. Mike O'Sullivan
24. Rick Duzlak

PEOPLE/MILESTONE NEWS

As a free service for our readers, we will print all births, weddings, engagements, milestone anniversaries, major birthdays, military achievements, honors and awards. We have a "people news" form available for you to submit these listings. This material is provided to us by our readers and local institutions and we do not charge to print this content.

For more information, or to submit people or milestone news for The Journal Register, please email mharrison@turley.com.

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Sign up for Quabbin Valley Baseball

REGION — The Quabbin Valley Baseball League is an age 28-and-over league which plays its games Sundays at 10 a.m. beginning in late April and concluding in late August. It is a six-team league and a 15-game schedule with all teams getting at least one play-off game at the end of August.

The league is seeking new players to join in the fun. The cost to play in 2021 is \$192.50 and registration can be found at www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org. Games are mostly being played this year in Easthampton and South Hadley. Players who wish to pitch in the league must be 30-years-old.

Sign-ups will continue to be open as the league still has open roster spots

for new players. Players who sign up in the first few weeks of the season should be able to be placed with a team.

The league's first games are scheduled for Sunday, April 25. For the 2021 season, there is a mask-wearing rule, as well as modifications that prohibit any type of spitting or close contact, and players are required to take out all trash they bring in with them. The league allows the use of BBCOR-certified -3 bats as well as wood bats. Games are nine innings and all players who participate get to hit and play the field. For more information or to contact someone from the league, go to the league's website.

Valley Wheel Baseball seeks new players

REGION — The Valley Wheel Over-30 Baseball League is looking for new players for the 2021 season, which is set to begin at the end of April. Players who are 28-years-old prior to June 1 are eligible to play in the league this season, however, only those 30 by June 1 are eligible to pitch. The league includes six teams and there is a 15-game season that begins on Sunday, April 25. Games are 12 Sundays, a special Mother's Day weekend Saturday game, and two weekday night games under the lights. The season ends the final week of July with the playoffs for the top

four teams during the first two weeks of August. While tryouts have completed, there are still open roster spots among the six teams in the league. The league will continue to accept applications for new players throughout the season. All players bat and every player spends at least four innings in the field in a nine-inning game. The league will be playing with some minor modifications due to the COVID-19 pandemic to start. For more information, please contact League Commissioner Jim Nason at wheel12@comcast.net.

TurleySports

Athlete of the Week

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Jack Letendre
Palmer High School

His 43-yard run keyed a drive that led to Palmer's first touchdown in their matchup against Ludlow.

To nominate someone for Athlete of the Week, contact Managing Sports Editor Gregory A. Scibelli at 413-283-8393 ext. 258 or send an e-mail to gscibelli@turley.com.

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PANTHERS | from page 7



Xavier Nava follows his blockers.

but I've never dealt with anything like this before. It has been a very difficult season, but my players stuck with it and I give them a lot of credit."

The four Palmer seniors are Jacob Mastalerz, Herminio Medina, Markys Lissaint, and Aidan Connan.

"I've really enjoyed coaching the four seniors," Marciniec said. "All of them are good kids."

Mastalerz received the 52nd annual Leonard J. Bailey Award Trophy from his older brother, Kyle, during a ceremony held at halftime. Kyle Mastalerz received the prestigious award in 2017.

"I was a freshman member of the football team when my older brother won the Bailey Award," said Jacob Mastalerz. "Once he won the award, it was my goal to receive it when I was a senior. I strived to do my best both on the field and in the classroom during the past couple of years."

Mastalerz, who's an honor roll student, is a four-year member of the Panthers football team. He was a captain of this year's squad.

"Jacob is a very special kid," Marciniec said. "He does things without hesitation and he's always around the ball, which is something you always look for as a coach."

Just like his older brother, Jacob Mastalerz will be attending the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in the fall.

Palmer was trailing by one point at halftime.

The Lions offense put-together a

SPRING | from page 7

from May 5 through the middle of June. Like the previous seasons this school year, most of the sports will play about 12 games. Seasons in the fall and winter ran for about 10 to 12 games, but spring sports often lend themselves to more games under a condensed schedule. Most teams are scheduled for 12 games with some playing more depending on individual circumstances.

The more important part is that in addition to a 12-game schedule, teams who qualify will get the chance to par-

13-play scoring drive on the game's first possession.

The trio of junior Michael Gilrein, Beckett, and Ayers moved the ball down the field on the ground. Beckett also had a 10-yard reception to keep the drive alive and Fogg capped off the long drive with a 10-yard touchdown run with 4:20 left in the first quarter. Lapa added the extra point.

The Panthers offense answered right back with a scoring drive of their own.

Junior quarterback Jack Letendre moved his team into Ludlow territory for the first time following a 43-yard run. He was tackled at the 17 yard line by Lapa. Then sophomore Xavier Nava carried the ball three times before Letendre connected with Medina, who made a diving catch in the end zone for a 7-yard TD on the first play of the second quarter. Ludlow junior Collin Doyle was able to tackle Nava on the two-point conversion play before he crossed the goal-line making the score 7-6.

Hitchcock and Ayers combined for a sack on a fourth down play during the second quarter. Lapa also had an interception before halftime.

LaPatin recovered a fumble on the first play of the second half, which helped set-up a 9-yard TD run by Fogg less than two minutes later. The extra point attempt was blocked.

Just like in the opening quarter, the Panthers offense put-together an offensive drive, but it came to an end following another interception by Lapa in the end zone.

Seven plays later, Beckett reached the end zone following a 40-yard run on the first play of the fourth quarter. The home team had a 21-6 lead after Lapa's diving catch in the end zone on the conversion play.

Following a kickoff return to the Panthers 40 by Mastalerz, Letendre gained 16 yards on the first down play. Then Nava rushed for 24 yards on the next play before Mastalerz capped off the quick three play series with a 20-yard TD run. Letendre also scored a rushing touchdown on the conversion play.

The Panthers had one final scoring opportunity with less than five minutes remaining in regulation, but Lapa ended that drive with his third interception of the game.

The returning Panthers players will be looking to end the four game losing skid against Ludlow on Thanksgiving morning.

Athletes are still being required to wear masks to participate in sports, though it is possible restrictions could ease as the spring season progresses based on the vaccination effort and currently dropping case numbers. Surrounding states like Connecticut and New Hampshire have also started easing restrictions as well.

Most schedules for the spring have been posted to the MIAA website as well as some school websites.

CLUES ACROSS	disgust	3. The ___ of March
1. Switches	34. The government has many	4. Healthy
7. Legal financial term (abbr.)	36. Small constellation	5. Where golfers begin
10. Sweeties	37. Northern Indian city	6. Soviet Socialist Republic (abbr.)
12. Competition	38. The best pitchers	7. Of the cheek
13. Measures electrical resistance	39. Naturally occurring solid	8. Injury reminder
14. Psychotherapy researcher	40. Apple computers	9. Statesman Franklin
15. Causes injury to	41. Portuguese city	10. For an unknown reason
16. Open	44. Ancient Greek war	11. Brain parts
17. Polish peninsula	45. More reliable	12. Islamic calendar
18. Hebrew calendar month	46. Sailboat	13. Frequently flooded
19. Whale ship captain	4	

DEATH NOTICES

Michael S. Bernat, 65
Died: April 19, 2021

Thomas Clason, 86

The Journal Register OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

O B I T U A R I E S

Michael S. Bernat, 65

Michael S. Bernat of Palmer, a loving husband, dedicated father and compassionate educator, passed away unexpectedly April 19. He was 65.

He was born in New Bedford, Mass. on Aug. 18 1955, to the late Frydryk and Lucille F.J. (Brunette) Bernat. He attended Bishop Stang High School, in North Dartmouth, and attended the University of Massachusetts at Amherst to study restaurant and hotel management. While enrolled he met Mary, his wife of 46 years, as they both worked at the Friendly's restaurant in Northampton.

In 1980, he started a lengthy career at Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School's culinary arts program. First as an instructor before eventually becoming the school's food service director, earning his master's degree in Educational Administration from the University of Massachusetts Lowell in 2005.

He relished his time at Pathfinder as an educator, as well his friendship with fellow teacher Steve Alger. The pair was well-known for their sense of humor, which included participating in the school's talent show one year as "the singing belly chefs." Michael was particularly proud of the role he had in managing the school's in-house restaurant,

The Tea Room, and its senior lunch program, always taking time to assist the elderly, making sure everyone who visited was welcomed and well-fed.

An advocate for fellow teachers, he was actively involved with the Pathfinder Education Association as representative and as president. He also coached the school's golf team. He retired in 2011 after 31 years teaching. Michael also loved basketball and spent several years as a coach in Palmer's youth basketball program.

He loved music, both listening and playing, and cherished an acoustic guitar Mary gifted him for Christmas in 1991. His favorite musicians were Lou Reed and Neil Young, an artist who held a special place in his heart.

He took up the game of golf at a young age, playing until his retirement. His frequent companion on the links was Eddie Amatruda, who he met as a freshman in college. If Eddie ever called in the early morning to say "the birds are on the green" then the two would be out golfing later that day.

In retirement, he spent winters in Panama City Beach, Fla.



He and Mary enjoyed escaping the cold and exploring the panhandle's beaches and local eateries. A lover of the water, he enjoyed boating, whether on fresh or saltwater.

He was predeceased by his parents, Fred and Lucille, a brother, Mathieu, and a nephew, Anthony Brazil.

Michael is survived by his wife, Mary (Stonina) Bernat; two sons, Matthew and Nicholas and his wife Victoria; a granddaughter, Ivy Jane; three siblings, Marc S. Bernat and his wife Charlene; Suzanne M. Tompkins and her husband Scott; and Jeanne L. B. Avila and her husband Michael; and seven nieces and nephews: Daniel, Lauren, David, Stephen, Daniel, Kelsey and Zachary; and several cousins.

A public visitation was held April 24 at the Beers & Story Funeral Home followed by a private memorial service.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to: Culinary Arts Scholarship Fund in memory of Michael S. Bernat c/o Pathfinder Regional Vocational High School, 240 Sykes St., Palmer MA 01069.

Thomas Clason, 1934-2021

MONSON — Thomas Clason, 86, devoted family man will be honored on Saturday, May 1, at 11 a.m. in St. Patrick's Church, Monson with a Liturgy of Chris-

tian Burial and be followed by a procession to Bethany Cemetery where he will receive committal prayers, military honors and a final salute.

Please join with family and friends to celebrate Tom's life and legacy. More information is available at lombardfuneral-home.com.

Police/Fire

Police Logs

PALMER

The Palmer Police Department responded to 338 calls and made four arrests or summons for arrests April 20-27. Those arrested appear at the Palmer District Court and are innocent until proven guilty.

Monday, April 20

Scott T. Murray, 50, of 25 Elm St., Warren, was arrested at 8:17 p.m., on Thorndike Street in Palmer, on charges of operation of under the influence of a motor vehicle and

negligent operation of a motor vehicle.

Kelly Sue Macneil, 51, of 60 Tinkham Rd., Springfield, was arrested 8:18 p.m., in the area of State Street and Pleasant Street in Bondsville, on charges of operating under the influence of liquor (third offense); negligent operation of a motor vehicle and a motor vehicle lights violation.

Thursday, April 22

David F. Smith, 44, of 21 Pinnacle Rd., Monson, was arrested at

1:16 p.m., on Thorndike Street in Palmer, for operating under the influence of liquor.

Thursday, April 27

Matthew Alan Pope, 43, of 51 Park St., Malborough, was arrested at 12:11 a.m., on Ware Street in Thorndike, on charges operating a motor vehicle under the influence of liquor (second offense); negligent operation of a motor vehicle; a marked lanes violation as possession of a Class E drug.

Fire Logs

PALMER

The Palmer Fire Department responded to 21 calls April 14-19:

On Tuesday, April 20, at 12:36 P.M., the department responded to a call, requesting medical assistance on Spring Street. The department returned to service at 12:45 p.m.

On Tuesday, April 20, at 12:57 p.m., the department responded to a smoke detector activation on Park Street. The department returned to service at 1:18 p.m.

On Tuesday, April 20, at 1:43 p.m., the department responded to a call, requesting medical assistance on Spring Street. The department returned to service at 2:05 p.m.

On Tuesday, April 20, at 4:13 p.m., the department responded to a call, with no incident found on arrival on Park Street. The department returned to service at 4:35 p.m.

On Wednesday, April 21, at 2:27 a.m., the department responded to an alarm activation on Park Street. The department returned to service at 3:10 a.m.

On Wednesday, April 21, at 9 a.m., the department responded to a smoke detector activation on Bennett Street. The department returned to service at 9:24 a.m.

On Wednesday, April 21, at 1:39 p.m., the department responded to a brush fire on Boston Road. The department returned to service at 1:12 p.m.

On Wednesday, April 21, at 6:22 p.m., the department responded to a carbon monoxide detector activation on Wilbraham Street. The department returned to service at 6:47 p.m.

On Thursday, April 22, at 2:08 a.m., the department responded to an alarm activation on Park Street.

The department returned to service at 2:25 a.m.

On Thursday, April 22, at 10 a.m., the department responded to a smoke detector activation on Shearer Street. The department returned to service at 10:27 a.m.

On Friday, April 23, at 12 a.m., the department responded to a smoke detector activation on Beacon Drive. The department returned to service at 12:22 a.m.

On Friday, April 23, at 1:05 p.m., the department responded to a call, requesting medical assistance on South Main Street. The department returned to service at 1:22 p.m.

On Friday, April 23, at 1:51 p.m., the department responded to a carbon monoxide activation on Emelda Street. The department returned to service at 2:15 p.m.

On Friday, April 23, at 2:46 p.m., the department responded to a call, requesting medical service on Emelda Street. The department returned to service at 3:51 p.m.

On Friday, April 23, at 7:12 p.m., the department responded to a call that was cancelled on the Mass Pike. The department returned to service at 7:40 p.m.

On Saturday, April 24, at 11:21 a.m., the department responded to a brush fire on Hilltop Drive in Monson. The department returned to service at 2:13 p.m.

On Saturday, April 24, at 8:10 p.m., the department to a call that was cancelled on Munn Road in Monson. The department returned to service at 8:16 p.m.

On Monday, April 26, at 5:37 p.m., the department to a central station alarm on Shearer Street. The department returned to service at 6:05 p.m.

On Monday, April 26, at 8:09 a.m., the department responded to a smoke detector activation on Thorndike Street. The department returned to service at 8:26 a.m.

On Tuesday, April 27, at 7:59 a.m., the department responded to a call, requesting medical assistance on Beacon Drive. The department returned to service at 8:12 a.m.

On Tuesday, April 27, at 10:21 a.m., the department responded to a motor vehicle rollover on Ware Street. The department returned to service at 10:59 a.m.

THREE RIVERS

The Three Rivers Fire Department responded to no calls April 20-27.

BONDSVILLE

The Bondsville Fire Department responded to one call April 20-26.

On Thursday, April 22, at 9:35 p.m., the department responded to a carbon monoxide detector activation on South Main Street. The department returned to service at 10:45 p.m.

MONSON

The Monson Fire Department responded to two calls April 19-25.

On Saturday, April 24, at 10:58 a.m., the department responded to a brush fire on Hilltop Drive. The department returned to service at 2:09 p.m.

On Saturday, April 24, at 3:18 p.m., the department responded to a brush fire on Peck Road in Wales. The department returned to service at 8:28 p.m.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

E-mail items to mharrison@turley.com or mail to Calendar Editor, Journal Register, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, for receipt by Monday of week for publication.

Editor's note: Due to the coronavirus pandemic, events featured in the Journal Register, including those previewed in stories, briefs and on the calendar page, may be canceled with little notice. The Journal Register encourages readers to contact event coordinators and organizers for updated event times. Have an event to promote? Email the information (in a Word doc or as email text – no PDFs, please) to mharrison@turley.com.

SOON

PLANT SALE: Monson Garden Club will hold its annual plant sale on Saturday, May 8, at Dave Grieve Park Gazebo the corner of Main and Lincoln streets across from Memorial Hall starting at 9 a.m. A wide selection of perennials in addition to wildflowers, vegetables, shrubs, house plants, bulbs and herbs will be available. Plants come from members' gardens, and members will be available to answer questions. Proceeds go to local community projects such as downtown plantings, holiday greens, and a scholarship fund. Masks are required. Rain date is May 15.

RIVER SWEEP: Volunteers needed for a river clean-up 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 8, at Laviolette Field in Three Rivers – rain or shine. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Volunteers will be required to adhere to all COVID-19 safety guidelines and social distancing protocols during the event. Light refreshments will be provided. For more information, contact Fortune at 413-626-7084 or fortune@townofpalmer.com.

ORGANIC FARMING: Many Hands Organic Farm will be hosting a workshop regarding organic small fruit production on Saturday, May 8 from 10 a.m. to noon

at the farm on Sheldon Road. Participants will learn seed starting and planting protocols from greenhouse to hoophouse to field. They will start seeds inside, plant in the field and also spend some time on the theories and practice, which don't always conform with the norm on how to get plants off on their best footing and keep them thriving throughout the season. Registration is available on the Many Hands Organic Farm website at mhof.net/events-workshops.

CRAFTY CARD MAKING: The Holland Community Center invites you to come and make "Fancy Ladies With Hats" cards at 1 p.m. Monday, May 10. Three different cards available. Make one or all three. \$10 per card for materials. For more information, go to the center's Facebook page, their website town.holland.maus/community-center or call 413-245-3163

POETRY WORKSHOP: "Ekphrastic Poetry: Hear It! See It! Write It!" presented by Cindy Snow at Memorial Hall, 6:30-8:30 p.m. May 19. This workshop is funded by the Monson Cultural Council with funding from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Participants will create poems in response to the art exhibit "The Colors of Change" on display at the House of Art. To register, contact Gay Paluch by e-mail gay.paluch@comcast.net or phone 413 893 9014. The cost for the workshop is \$5. Additional information about the spring exhibit can be found at monsonarts.org/artshows.

RAFFLE DRAWING: Drawing for the Friends of the Monson Free Library Spring Raffle is May 19. Seven items are available and include gift certificates to Lowe's, Rainbow Gardens, and Full Circle Skin Care and Massage Therapy, a gardening gift basket, a Tastefully Simple Gift Basket, a hand made

floral twin –sized quilt, and a handmade framed weather proof barn quilt. Items are on display at the Monson Free Library. Orders must be placed by May 12. Forms are available at the Monson Free Library at monsonlibrary.com.

AT THE HOLLAND LIBRARY

Join the Community Book Club: The book club will meet online via Zoom. Copies of the monthly book selection, in a variety of formats, are available for curbside checkout at the library. Contact the Holland Community Center for more information by calling them at 413-245-3163. Like them on Facebook for updates. To join the Zoom meeting: Meeting ID: 736 9214 3025; Passcode: p95795.

ONGOING

EVERYONE INVITED TO AQUACISE: The Ludlow Community Center/Randall Boys & Girls Club at 91 Claudia's Way, Ludlow, offer Aquacise for residents of Monson, Palmer, Brimfield, Holland and Wales.

Aquacise will be offered 8-8:45 a.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Aquacise is a low-impact, full-body workout performed in the water to put less stress on your joints and muscles while building strength. To reserve a spot visit ludlowbgc.org and click on Adult Programs, or call Matt Thompson at 413-583-2072, ext. 122. For updates on the facility, register on the website to receive Club emails. The Club continues to make health and safety its No. 1 priority to ensure all visitors who enter the building have a clean and safe environment.

PALMER DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FORCE: Consists of business owners, community members, survivors and allies. The Palmer Domestic Violence Task Force

promotes education and awareness in the community while empowering, educating and providing resources to those who have been affected by domestic violence and/or intimate partner violence in Palmer or those who have found safety in Palmer. For help and meeting information, email palmerdvf@gmail.com. All contact is confidential.

MUSIC LESSONS, YOGA AND MORE: Just because days are short, and the thermometer reads cold doesn't mean there's nothing to do. Hitchcock Academy constantly works with instructors to offer options to its community members. Look for upcoming classes in yoga, tai chi, meditation, and fencing. Hitchcock Academy follows all current COVID guidelines for cleaning and social distancing and anyone using the facility must wear a mask.

All information regarding current class offerings, events, and registration are available at hitchcockacademy.org.

FREE FOOD PROGRAM: The Massachusetts Military Support Foundation has found a way to get food to families that need it. The Farmers to Families program, set up by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is part of a Coronavirus Food Assistance Program that help people all over the nation and has a site in Springfield open to all residents. The program will supply food kits with fresh fruits and vegetables, dairy products and meat products that distributes package into family-sized boxes. You can register for your food kit at mmsfi.org. On the website

choose "Springfield, Ma" as your pick up site and sign-up. Register for one week or all four with easy one time registration. Food kit includes fresh dairy, protein, and produce totaling 30+ pounds of food. Military families are encouraged to sign-up but registration is open to the public.

BOOKSTORE at the Unitarian Universalist Parish of Monson at the corner of Lincoln and Main streets in Monson is open the first Friday of every month from 5:30-

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FOR SALE**FOR RENT**</

Public notices

LEGAL NOTICE MONSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Under the requirements of M.G.L. Chapt. 131, s.40, the Monson Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting on **Wednesday, May 5, 2021 at 7:20 P.M. REMOTELY**. Under consideration is a Request for a Determination of Applicability to determine if a Municipal Project associated with pavement, blacktop, basins, culvert, and curb improvements along Cushman St, Monson MA is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act. Applicant is the Monson Highway Department, Represented by Benjamin Murphy- Highway Surveyor.

Login:
<https://zoom.us/j/93461517169?pwd=SUJwR31ZbHAYZzdGT0ZQeFlwRXVTZz09>

Dial: 1.646.558.8656
Meeting ID: 934 6151 7169

Password: 878803
Submitted by:

Monson Conservation
Commission
04/29/2021

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and
Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758**

Docket No. HD21P0644EA
Estate of:

William Loynes Danforth
Also known as:

William L Danforth
Date of Death: 04/12/2019

**CITATION ON
PETITION FOR
FORMAL
ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Robert Schleef** of Ventura, CA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Robert Schleef** of Ventura, CA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/21/2021**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.
Date: April 23, 2021

Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
04/29/2021

**NOTICE OF
MORTGAGEE'S SALE
OF REAL ESTATE**
By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by **LOUIS M. GEORGE and CHRISTY GEORGE to SOUTHBIDGE CREDIT UNION** dated October 30, 2002 and recorded with the Hampden County Registry

of Deeds (the "Registry") in Book 12679, Page 537 (the "Mortgage"), of which Mortgage the undersigned (the "Mortgagee") is the present holder, for the second highest bid for the Premises, without further advertisement and without further notice to other bidders or persons. In the event that the Mortgagee offers the Premises to the second highest bidder and such person declines either to purchase the Premises at the second highest bid price or to sign the Memorandum of Sale, then the Mortgagee may elect (but is not obligated) to exercise the rights of the second highest bidder under this paragraph and to purchase the Premises at the second highest bid price, without further advertisement and without further notice to other bidders or persons.

Property Address:
1242 Dunhamtown Road, Brimfield, MA

Being known and designated as Lot No. 5-A, as shown on a plan entitled "House Lots in Brimfield, MA owned by Robert E. Houde, November 2, 1987, N.E. Leathers", said plan being recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 262, Plan 56, said lot or parcel more particularly bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at an iron pin set in the ground on the westerly side of Dunhamtown Road, said iron pin being the northeasterly corner of the lot or parcel herein described:
THENCE running South 8 degrees 42' 20" West, one hundred ninety-five and 7/10 (195.7) feet along said Dunhamtown Road to a concrete bound as shown on said plan;

THENCE running South 9 degrees 08' 35" West, forty-nine and 00/100 (49.00) feet to a point;

THENCE turning and running North 77 degrees 38' 10" West, seven hundred fifty-eight and 6/10 (758.6) feet along the northerly line of Lot No. 5-B as shown on said plan to a point;

THENCE turning and running North 38 degrees 15' 17" East, two hundred sixty-nine and 8/10 feet (269.8) feet [sic.] to a point;

THENCE turning and running South 78 degrees 49' 50" East, one hundred eighty-four and 7/10 feet (184.7) feet to an iron pin;

THENCE running South 77 degrees 20' 15" East, four hundred forty-one and 10/100 (441.10) feet to an iron pin at the point of beginning.

Containing 3.91 acres according to said plan.

BEING the same premises conveyed to Louis M. George and Christy George by Deed of Louis M. George, dated October 29, 2002 and recorded with the Hampden District Registry of Deeds, immediately prior hereto as Instrument No. 9419."

The description of the Premises contained in the Mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

The Premises, together with all improvements encumbered by the Mortgage, are to be sold and conveyed subject to all leases, tenancies, occupancies, mortgages, restrictions, covenants, orders of conditions, easements, encroachments, outstanding tax titles, municipal or other public taxes, assessments or liens, federal and state tax liens, other liens or claims in the nature of liens and existing encumbrances recorded prior to the Mortgage and/or otherwise having priority over the Mortgage, if there be any.

TERMS OF SALE: A non-refundable deposit of **TEN THOUSAND (\$10,000.00) DOLLARS** is to be paid by certified or bank cashier's check by the purchaser at the time and place of sale, the balance to be paid by certified or bank cashier's check and deed to be taken by purchaser within thirty (30) days of the sale at the offices of Seder & Chandler, LLP, 339 Main Street, Worcester, Massachusetts, attorneys for the Mortgagee.

The Mortgagee reserves the right to postpone the sale to a later date by public proclamation on the date and at the time and place appointed for the sale and to further postpone at any adjourned sale date by public proclamation on the date and at the time and place appointed for the adjourned sale.

In the event of the failure or inability of the purchaser to perform and to purchase

the Premises in accordance herewith, the Mortgagee reserves the right (but is not obligated) to accept, subject to the Memorandum of Sale, the second highest bid for the Premises, without further advertisement and without further notice to other bidders or persons. In the event that the Mortgagee offers the Premises to the second highest bidder and such person declines either to purchase the Premises at the second highest bid price or to sign the Memorandum of Sale, then the Mortgagee may elect (but is not obligated) to exercise the rights of the second highest bidder under this paragraph and to purchase the Premises at the second highest bid price, without further advertisement and without further notice to other bidders or persons.

Other terms to be announced at the time and place of sale.

**SOUTHBIDGE
CREDIT UNION**
Present holder of said Mortgage

Jennifer L. Conrad, Esq.,
SEDER & CHANDLER,
LLP
339 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508)757-7721
Attorneys for the Mortgagee

THE ZEKOS GROUP
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04/15, 04/22, 04/29/2021

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and
Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758**

Docket No. HD20P0578EA

Estate of:

Gale Alice Howard
Also known as:

Gale Brown, Gale Howard
Date of Death: 09/30/2019

**CITATION ON
PETITION FOR
FORMAL
ADJUDICATION**

TO: All interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by: **James B Howard, Jr.** of Monson, MA and **Carl A Trant, Jr.** of Thorndike, MA requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/24/2021**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding.

If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.
Date: April 21, 2021

Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
04/29/2021

(SEAL)

**THE COMMONWEALTH
OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE
TRIAL COURT**

21 SM 000401

ORDER OF NOTICE

To:

Matthew Johnson; Alicia Johnson

and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the

Servicemembers Civil

Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50

\$3901 (et seq)

Quicken Loans, LLC

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Palmer, numbered 1352 Park Street, given by Matthew Johnson, Alicia Johnson to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Quicken Loans Inc., dated July 15, 2016, and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 21267, Page 317 and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a com-

plaint for determination of Defendant/s/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to the foreclosure of the above mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before May 24, 2021 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, **Gordon H. Piper**, Chief Justice of this Court on April 9, 2021.

Attest:

Deborah J. Patterson

Recorder

19936

04/29/2021

MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (e.g., interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, live captioning, videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats), available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Office by phone (857-368-8580), TTD/TTY at (857) 266-0603, fax (857) 368-0602 or by email (MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us).

Requests should be made as soon as possible prior to the meeting, and for more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten business days before the hearing.

This Virtual Design Public Hearing or a cancellation announcement will be posted on the internet at www.mass.gov/mass-dot-highway-design-public-hearings.

JONATHAN GULLIVER

**HIGHWAY
ADMINISTRATOR**

**PATRICIA A.
LEAVENWORTH, P.E.
CHIEF ENGINEER**

04/29, 05/06/2021

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and
Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758**

Docket No. HD20P1922EA

Estate of: **Vernon E Olson**

Also known as:

Vernon E Olson, Sr.

Date of Death: 06/13/2020

**CITATION ON
PETITION FOR
FORMAL
ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by: **Vernon E Olson, Jr.** of Palmer, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Vernon E Olson, Jr.** of Palmer, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/19/2021**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding.

If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**UNSUPERVISED
ADMINISTRATION
UNDER THE
MASSACHUSETTS
UNIFORM PROBATE
CODE (MUPC)**

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

Project inquiries, written statements and other exhibits regarding the proposed undertaking may be submitted to Patricia A. Leavenworth, P.E., Chief Engineer, via e-mail to MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us or via US Mail to Suite 6340, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: **Project File No. 608846**. Statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be emailed or postmarked no later than ten (10) business days after the hearing is posted to the MassDOT website listed below.

This hearing is accessible to people with disabilities.

Project inquiries, written statements and other exhibits regarding the proposed undertaking may be submitted to Patricia A. Leavenworth, P.E., Chief Engineer, via e-mail to <a href="mailto:MassDOT

Let's go out!



Courtesy photo
This quilted multi-dimensional piece by Dawn Sullivan of Monson, titled "Urge for Going" is one of the entries in this year's Monson Arts Council exhibit and sale.

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Congratulations
Carrie Smith
We are so very proud of you and your accomplishments.
Good luck at Springfield College.
Love Dad. Mom & John

SAMPLE

27th annual Spring Art Exhibit coming to Monson in May

By Kimberly Palmucci
Correspondent

MONSON — The Monson Arts Council is presenting its 27th annual Art Exhibition and Sale, "The Colors of Change," from May 15-30.

Artists in all media have been invited to enter their work in the juried show for an opportunity to show their work and to share in \$4,500 in awards. The exhibition will take place in the House of Art, 200 Main Street in Monson, and as an online gallery.

"This is a juried show and has been supported with major funding from Monson Savings Bank for more than 20 years," show Publicist Maureen Solomon said.

"Other sponsors are Turley Publications, Monson Cultural Council, Roberts and Ludlow Printing, Moulton Insurance Agency, Stolar Insurance, WARE Radio, and several smaller sponsors who provide gift certificates."

This show will include several new prizes, according to Solomon. Linda Lastoff, a pastel artist who was president of the Wilbraham Art League for many years, has underwritten a special prize of \$250 to honor her parents—the Edward and Shirley Lastoff Memorial Prize.

In addition, the Sylvia Pyzocha Award for Outstanding Nature Photography will be granted to several photographers in the show.

"This amazing award is offered in memory of the photographer Sylvia Pyzocha of Palmer who passed away in early April and is funded by her sister, Sandra Walsh," Solomon said, adding that Walsh underwrites many arts groups to honor her late husband, Leo Walsh, but this one is "especially meaningful."

Other prizes include: "Best of Show," selected by jurors, with a \$1,000 prize; category awards selected by the jurors in each of four categories, including painting, photography, graphic arts (drawing and printmaking), and multi-dimensional (sculpture and fiber arts), with a first prize of \$500, second prize of \$100, and President's Choice—selected by the MSB President Dan Moriarty—for a prize of \$300.

Even more awards include Outstanding Monson Artist, the Emerging Artist Award, and more. There will also be a People's Choice award, voted by ballot by visitors to the show. This year's show is particularly celebrated because the pandemic forced organizers to cancel last year's.

"We had to cancel 2020, and it was terrible because we had to actually return work to artists who had entered before the jurying happened. It was so sad," said Solomon.

"So of course, we are very excited this year to be able to open the House of Art with careful attention to all the COVID-19 guidelines, plus we will have the entire show in our online gallery, as we have done for many years."

Jurors for the exhibit include: Cynthia Consentino, of Buckland, a ceramic artist who received a M.F.A. from the University of Massachusetts; Erik Gehring, a freelance photographer who specializes in trees and natural landscapes; and Holly S. Murray, a graduate of Syracuse University, with a B.F.A. in painting and printmaking.

This year, the three jurors selected 118 works of art by 67 area artists, said Solomon.

"Our show is very well known in the Western Mass. region, and artists from all our area communities enter the show. Many of those in this year's show have been prize winners in the past," Solomon added. "The work this year is so outstanding, we are really happy with the excellence of this show."

The show will be open noon to 5 p.m. May 15-16, May 22-23 and May 29-30. All COVID-19 precautions will be followed.

There will be light refreshments in a lawn tent on Saturday, May 15.

In addition to the exhibit, which takes place in nine rooms at the House of Art, there will also be two special workshops offered that are funded by the Monson Cultural Council. Workshops include "Hear it! See it! Write it!," an Ekphrastic Poetry workshop with Cindy Snow 6:30-8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 19, in Memorial Hall; and "I Wish I Could Draw" an introduction to drawing workshop with David Dupuis, 6:30-8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 26, also in Memorial Hall.

To sign up for a workshop or for more information on the exhibit, visit monsonarts council.org.

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